



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Touched by Kim Family Tragedy, Neighbors Set Up Special Fund

Church Street Restaurants Host Benefit Dinner

By Heidi Anderson

Television crews and votive candles have disappeared from outside the tiny Church Street Apothecary, and life has returned to normal at the corner of Day and Church streets since the news of James Kim's death in Oregon in early December. But for newly widowed Randall Street resident Kati Kim and her two young daughters, life won't be back to normal for a long while—and neighbors touched by the family's plight want to help.

"The day we heard Kati and Sabine and Penelope were okay, there was such elation," recalls Paula Benton, owner of Artery studio on Church Street. But later, when the news came that James did not survive, Benton says she and many other Noe Valley residents felt overwhelming shock and sadness.

"We all hugged our loved ones a little tighter that day, and we asked ourselves, What can we do to help?"

Within a week, Benton, who is active in the merchants' group Church Street Business, started talking to other neighborhood groups about setting up a fund that would be earmarked for Kati and her children.

Unexpected Misfortune on a Routine Trip Home

James and Kati Kim, who own stores in both Noe Valley and the Haight, had been traveling with their girls—Penelope, 4, and Sabine, 8 months—to visit



James and Kati Kim, shown here with daughter Penelope, were excited about their new store on Church Street when this photo was taken in early 2005.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

friends in Seattle over Thanksgiving. They were driving home to San Francisco on Nov. 25, when they became snowbound on an Oregon Coast Range road that was supposed to be closed for the

winter. Their cell phones were unable to complete calls for help. Four days later, search crews began looking for the Kims

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Rite Aid Decides to Close Local Branch

Employees Informed the Week Before Christmas

By Corrie M. Anders

Enrique Tevar was enjoying a day off from work, so he missed getting the news right away. Shon Escamilla was off too, but got a "Guess what?" phone call from a co-worker. Thom Bernier was privy to the distressing truth for two days, but, as the store manager, had to keep the secret to himself until the official announcement.

The news, a corporate decision arriving just before Christmas, stunned the tight clan of employees at the Rite Aid drugstore in downtown Noe Valley—and saddened many of their longtime customers. After nearly a decade of operation, the Rite Aid Corp. announced it would be closing the store at 4045 24th Street sometime this spring.

The pharmacy stopped dispensing



Rite Aid employees John Liu, Shon Escamilla, Alice Fuller, and Brent Fuhrman are sad their close group of workers (and customers) will be breaking up this spring. "Noe Valley is a great neighborhood to work in," says Escamilla. "We'll really miss it."

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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Deal to Buy 24th Street Bell Falls Through

DeLano's Offer Declined by Property Owner

By Olivia Boler

Back in October 2006, the *Noe Valley Voice* reported that Harley DeLano and his company DeLano Retail Partners were just a few weeks away from becoming the new owners of 11 Bay Area Cala Foods and Bell Markets, including the one on 24th Street. In December, however, the agreement for the purchase of the Noe Valley supermarket fell through.

Because of a confidentiality clause in the escrow terms, DeLano cannot give details as to why the deal soured. His company did successfully purchase eight of the 11 markets, which are owned by Ralphs Grocery and its parent company Kroger Co., based in Cincinnati, Ohio.

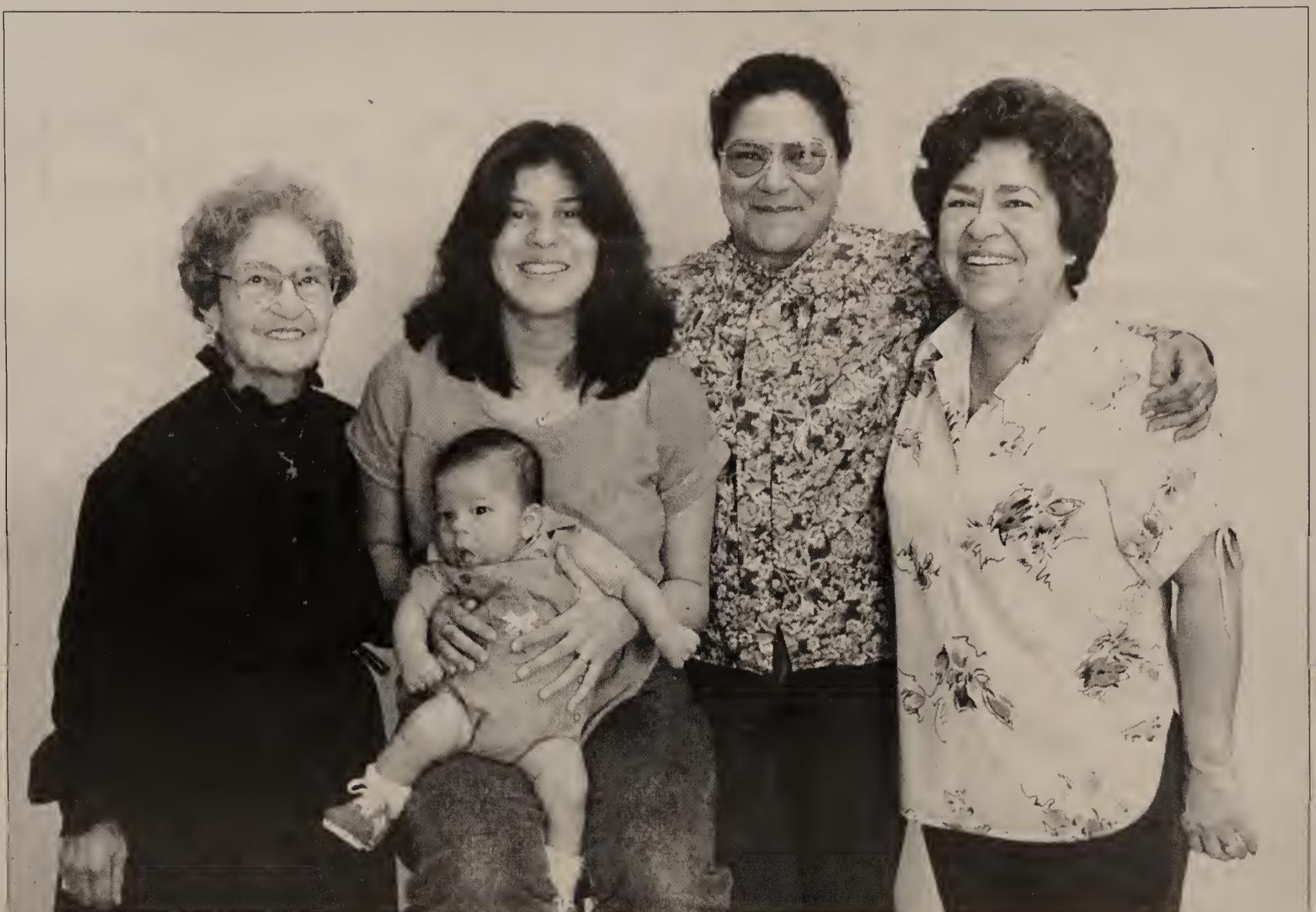
"All I can tell you," DeLano says, "is that in the instance of the Noe Valley store, we were not successful in our approach with the landlords there. We thought the deal was done, but it was not, and we are not going to be the operators of that store."

One of the eight stores DeLano did purchase was the Cala Foods in the Castro, at 19th and Collingwood streets. The transfer of that store to DeLano's control will go through in February. Five other stores are in Marin County, and the remaining two are in San Francisco, on Geary Boulevard and South Van Ness Avenue.

Mark Campana of Anchor Realty is the broker for the property owner of the Noe Valley Bell Market, Bell-Camp Investments. Some of Campana's family are

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Five Generations of Noe Valley Faces



It Was 25 Years Ago when the above photo appeared in these pages. Great-great-grandma Mary, at far left, has passed away. Next to her, mom Linda Barret holds her five-week-old baby Justin. Right of Linda is grandmother Shirley Castaneda and great-grandmother Ida Crespin.

Photo by Irene Kane



Today, Linda, at left, now gets to pass on baby-rearing chores to a grown-up Justin, who holds one-month-old Luke Raymond as Shirley and Ida join the family portrait.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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LETTERS 39¢

Tough Being an "O.G."

Editor:

I want to thank you for publishing a chapter from *Upper Noe* in the November issue of the *Noe Valley Voice*. The mention of the book-signing at the S.F. Mystery Bookstore drew a few people as well. One was a fixture who had lived in the neighborhood since birth over 60 years ago and who remembered the days when Noe Valley was a workingman's neighborhood. His name is Jerry Gurule, and he knew some of the characters in my book *Upper Noe*. He wore wraparound shades and a plaid shirt buttoned up to the neck, and carried two well-mannered lapdogs under each arm.

Gurule identified himself as an "O.G." (original gangster), although through the years he has managed, unlike some of the characters from our youth, to stay out of trouble and collect a pension from his union. Unfortunately, a few of our other contemporaries from the 1940s and '50s were killed under mysterious circumstances, died of drug overdoses, or went to San Quentin. We talked about a murder that happened when a young teacher was robbed and thrown on the tracks near St. Paul's and a streetcar came by and decapitated him (Gurule was there at the time and it made all the newspapers: the *Call-Bulletin*, the *Chron*, the *Examiner*, the *Progress*). We reminisced about the time the Red Rock Hills caught on fire (his brother torched it). He told me about a guy in my class at St. Paul's who was shot through the eye in a robbery attempt.

The best that could be said about our generation was that most of us grew up and moved away. No world beaters, no presidents of universities, no captains of

industry. Not exactly the type of kids in Noe Valley now, with many parents competing to place their kids in the right preschools and grammar schools.

Gurule mentioned a ballplayer we knew who grew up at 30th and Church above Jimmy's Bar and played third base for a time with the San Francisco Giants, Dirty Al Gallagher.

Jimmy's Bar, by the way, is now a chichi Italian restaurant named La something or other [La Ciccia] that is almost impossible to get into without a reservation. Nothing wrong with that, but Jimmy would roll over in his grave if he knew.

Dan Hallford
Sacramento, California

Do Not Pass a Stopped Streetcar

Editor:

In the September 2006 issue, a Noe Valleyan wrote about the danger of exiting the J-Church streetcar at the stops between 24th and 30th streets where there are no safety zones. Hardly a day goes by where I or my family don't encounter a car passing on the right, endangering alighting passengers.

I e-mailed Supervisor Bevan Dufty suggesting that safety improvements were needed, and he referred the situation to the MTA (Municipal Transportation Agency). I was subsequently contacted by an MTA staff member (Mr. Jerry Robbins), and pending further investigation, the MTA indicated they would take the following actions:

1) Relocate the existing "Do Not Pass" signs to midblock to align with the rear of stopped streetcars;

2) Replace missing "Do Not Pass" signs along Church Street; and

3) Request that the SFPD increase enforcement of the Vehicle Code, Section 21756(a), which prohibits passing of streetcars stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging passengers.

In addition, as part of a traffic-calming project, the MTA is planning to stripe a white line five feet to the right of the M-Ocean View streetcar tracks on Broad Street in 2007. If this measure proves effective, the MTA will consider applying the white line to Church Street as well.

I'd like to thank Supervisor Dufty and the MTA for this follow-up, and I hope this dangerous situation can be corrected.

Leon Traister

26th Street

Update: In late January Leon Traister reported that the Department of Parking and Traffic had followed through on the MTA's first two promises: The "Do Not Pass" signs have been replaced or relocated.

Cyclist Needs a Lesson in Diplomacy

Editor:

We all realize it's an ongoing process to make San Francisco streets safer for "clean" transport such as bikes, pedestrians, and scooters. On a Wednesday in December, I was an unwilling participant in a perfect example of how not to further this agenda.

I was pulling out of an extremely tight parking spot in front of Tuggee's Hard-

ware, using the kind of driving techniques that make my husband fall on the floor laughing. I was moving forward and back one inch at a time, finally getting the front left quadrant of the car halfway out into the lane. You could have been at the intersection of Castro and 24th and seen that I was pulling out all the way down near Sanchez and still reached me before I exited the parking space!

After my turtle-like extrication from the space, I proceeded at two miles per hour to the intersection in front of the 24th Street Café. Suddenly—*blam!*—someone was at the side of my car, pounding on the window. I rolled it down and was immediately subjected to a torrent of abuse from a bicyclist who was screaming "You almost killed me!"

I apologized and said, "You must have come up out of nowhere into my blind spot because I was pulling out for nearly four minutes and never saw you." He continued to scream at me. Figuring lack of engagement was the best policy, I started to roll up my window. At that point, he tried to block my window from closing, then began to hit my car repeatedly with his bicycle lock or chain! As I drove away, he followed me down the street, continuing to scream abuse.

I'm acutely aware that bicyclists share our streets—I ride a bike and a scooter myself—when I'm not driving a Prius. But I also think bicycle safety cuts both ways. As a bicyclist, you need to be aware that you are not as visible as a car and ride with caution. Pay particular attention to cars that appear to be exiting parking spaces, as it is even more difficult for a driver to see far down the road behind the car when at an angle to the street. I admit that a lot of drivers carelessly veer into bike lanes, but a lot of bicyclists act like kamikazes, blasting through stop signs and speeding along heedlessly. If you can't avoid me as I crawl my way out of a parking space, you should probably save that bike for the back roads, because you'll never navigate the real hazards of city biking in moving traffic.

We all need to be more vigilant. However, verbal abuse, physical threats, and property damage are not the way to foster "peaceful coexistence" between bikes and cars on San Francisco streets. So let's all be careful and courteous out there.

Name withheld by request
Elizabeth Street

Natural Succession at Jim's Produce

Editor:

As some of you may have noticed, Jim & Sons Produce at 24th and Church streets changed hands recently. By the way, Jim is his same old curmudgeonly self (thank God, there aren't too many of us left) and recovering well from his serious back surgery.

A young family has taken over the business. They are real nice folks, gradually putting their stamp on the place as "Noe Valley Natural," building up a nice selection of products, really interested in feedback and suggestions, and expanding produce lines to include much more organic. It was about 50-50 when I went in there in mid-January. Check 'em out. Support your local small business.

Patrick Monk
24th Street

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Bicycle Thief: Italian neorealist classic gets Criterion treatment; has a new high def digital transfer and new subtitles for a haunting and beautiful film. Wonderful.

The Deported: Martin Scorsese's corrupt cops and gangsters film, a remake of Hong Kong thriller Infernal Affairs, is a fantastic, fresh, tense and surprising film.

RECOMMENDED TITLES:

In honor of the annual Nair City film festival, held this year at the Castro Theater from Jan 26 through Feb 4, we recommend our large stack of Nair titles: highlights of our collection (extensive on both VHS and DVD) include *Laura*, *Asphalt Jungle*, *Maltese Falcon*, *The Dark Corner*, *14 Hours*, *Sudden Fear*, *Rififi*, and *Double Indemnity*.

NEW ACQUISITIONS:

Yojimbo and Sanjuro: Criterion releases new high def digital transfers of Akira Kurasawa's influential (remade as *Fistful of Dollars* and *Death Wish*) Samurai genre films, starring the incalculable Toshiro Mifune. Excellent.

Casino Royale: This is the original 1967 version, a comedy adventure starring David Niven, Orson Welles, Peter Sellers and Woody Allen, a fun late 60's light romp.

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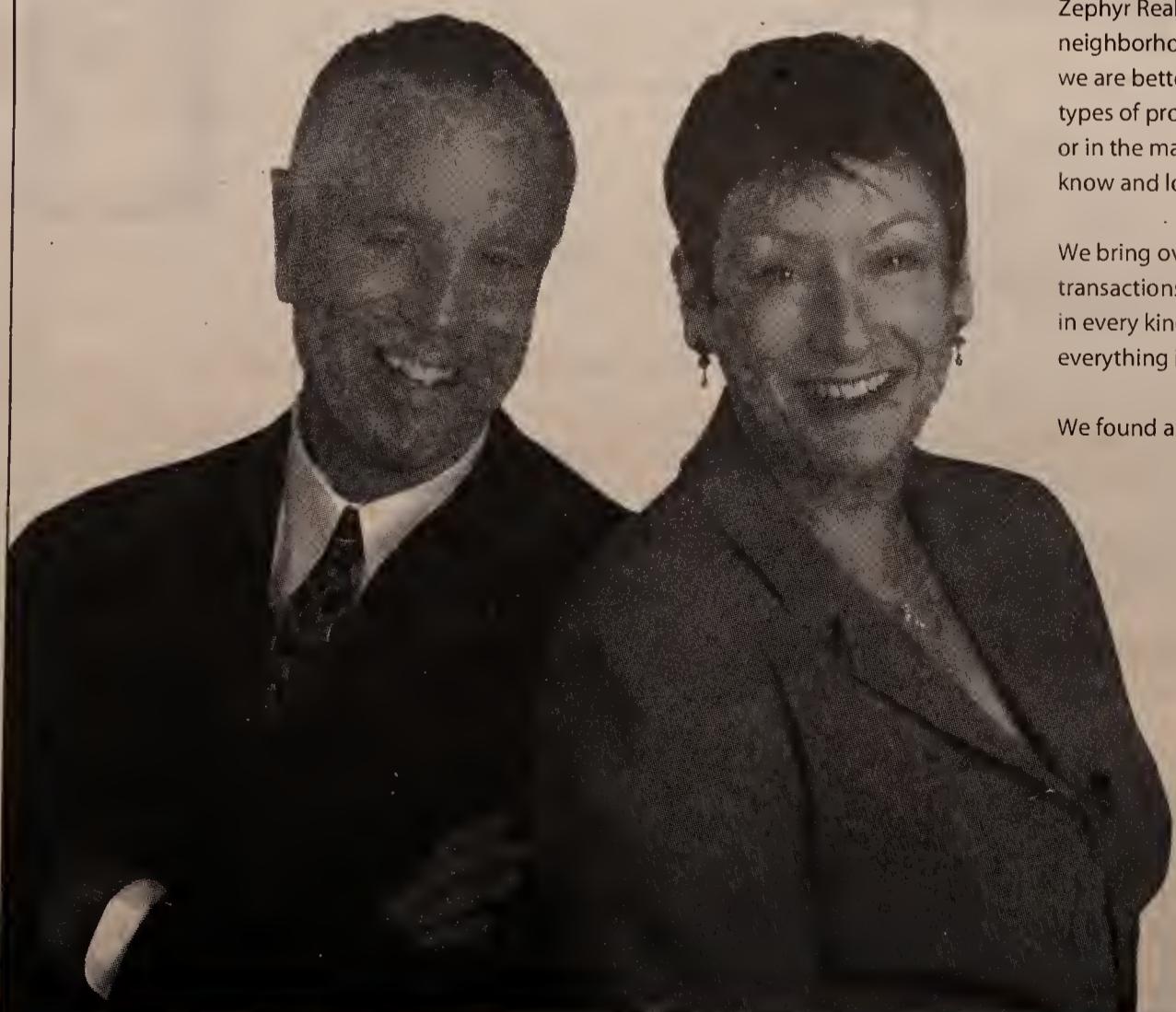
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LETTERS

Cat Burglar's Footprint

Editor:

I am writing because I feel the community should know there is a very brazen cat burglar striking Noe Valley. According to the SFPD, there were 20 burglaries in the first two weeks of December between 20th and 26th and Castro and Douglass streets. How do I know? Both my next-door neighbor and I were robbed while sleeping at home.

This criminal is very stealthy and not afraid. He does not care if you are at home. Lock your doors and windows, especially in the rear of the house, as that is where he prefers to enter. He gains access to back yards, then hops fences, finding open windows and doors. He never leaves prints, but if he leaves a mess, i.e., footprints, don't clean it up; wait for CSI to take a report. Once inside, he will quietly survey the common area and steal purses, wallets, keys, and then cars.

Keep a look out and immediately report any suspicious individuals that you notice late at night. This burglar never makes a forced entry, so the solution is to make sure that all of your windows and doors are locked.

Name withheld by request
Noe Valley resident

Editor's Note: A San Francisco man who may have been responsible for some of these burglaries was arrested by San Francisco police on Dec. 21. See our report in this month's Police Beat, page 21.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. Write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or e-mail editor@noevalueyvoice.com. Please include your name, address, and phone number. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) Be aware that letters may be edited for brevity or clarity. We look forward to hearing from you.

Scapple No Match for Pizza

Editor:

I wrote to the *Voice* approximately four years ago about my departure from Noe Valley to Royersford, Pa., after living on 25th Street for almost 40 years, in various apartments and the house owned by Art the Barber (Arthur Schembri).

My life in Pennsylvania has adjusted accordingly: the Eagles, scrapple and eggs, cheese steaks and hoagies; cold weather, snow, and the dreadful humidity of summer.

So in August I decided to trek to San Francisco on Amtrak's Zephyr. Back in Noe Valley, my first "stop" was a walk on 24th Street and lunch at Noe Valley Pizza. The minute I stepped into Noe Valley Pizza, Dennis, the son of the owner, recognized me by name and mentioned my previous letter to the *Voice*. Now that was a wonderful reception.

Sadly, my old home on 25th Street (3976) has been demolished and replaced with a new more modern structure. Art would not be happy if he were alive. But 24th Street remains a lively business center, one that won't be found here in Royersford, a former farm town. I'm so glad I made my visit, and saw old scenes and places. My heart will always be with all of you.

John Pritz
Royersford, Pennsylvania

Wild in the City

Editor:

Hi there. I was just looking at the *Noe Valley Voice* web page about wildlife written by Laura McCloskey [Noe Valley Kids Voice, *Voice* September 2005]. Laura called me this past spring to get information about our local wildlife. Thank you for posting this page. It's wonderfully simple for kids. And thanks for acknowledging SF ROMP for providing natural history information about the wildlife in our city.

Here's a bit of information you might want to add to the section on raccoons. It's true, as you wrote, that in the city raccoons can be found nesting in attics or under houses, especially when they have their babies in the springtime. You might be interested to know that baby raccoons look like newborn kittens. When they are small, they nurse and sleep. When they get a bit older, they play together like kit-

Moving to Noe Valley? Be Sure You Like Noise

By Giovanna Iozzi

When I first moved here as a London girl born and bred, I thought I had come to some urban paradise.

The streets in Noe Valley were so quiet I could have been in some glorious English country village. There were hummingbirds in the garden, I could hear church bells in the distance, and the occasional airplane droned softly overhead.

I was from a dirty, crime-ridden part of London, and I felt I had gone from Kansas to Oz in a matter of 12 hours over the Atlantic. It was heavenly.

But sadly, the dream ended last year when I moved from 25th to Jersey Street.

Okay, so I knew there was a building project going on up the street, and another one right next door. The jackhammers were something I'd told myself I could deal with for a few weeks. But I didn't know the remodeling would go on well after my second baby was born. And I had no idea at least three other major building projects were planned on the street.

Jersey Street, which according to my landlady had been pretty quiet for 35 years, became a nightmarish orchestra of hydraulic drills, buzz saws, and earth-movers. Windows couldn't be opened, cars were smothered in dust and grit, and builders' loud music blared for most of the day. I was in home-improvement hell.

Now, six months later, we've learned it's going to last at least another year. As one monster project ends, another one seems to begin. On any given day, three or four worker vans are double-parked on our block. And a silent battle has sprung up between builders and residents: the fight for legal parking spaces.

Secret phone calls are being made to the city, to elicit traffic fines for any resident who dares to challenge the self-proclaimed building kings. Construction workers often move their vehicles grudgingly, as if they are doing us a huge favor by letting us drive our cars out.

As a rule, my neighbors are kind and cheerful, and give you a real sense of belonging. But the builders' disrespect is eroding neighbors' trust. The friendly Noe disposition has been replaced by black looks and tense atmospheres.

Although the smart renovations will undoubtedly make money for the owners, I'm afraid it will be at the expense of what really matters: a sense of community and social responsibility.

It's also disturbing that the building authorities gave the green light to so many disruptive projects on one street in the same time period. Perhaps the people found at home during the day—stay-at-home moms, seniors, students, and home workers—don't really count for much opposition.

Some have suggested we move, but our rent is reasonable for the area and we like our apartment. Well, our stay is coming to an end soon anyway. After enduring all this Noe noise pollution, perhaps the police sirens, traffic chaos, and stress of London won't seem so bad after all.

My advice to anyone moving to Jersey Street? Get some earplugs.

tens and puppies. Once baby raccoons get playful, mom begins to take them out at night with her, teaching them how to climb trees and how to find food. When they are about 3 months old, they leave their natal den and sleep in trees, too.

Jamie Ray, Director

San Francisco ROMP (Rescued Orphan Mammal Program)

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Thanks for the raccoon information, and for setting us straight on the spelling of your name. We apologize for our mistake.

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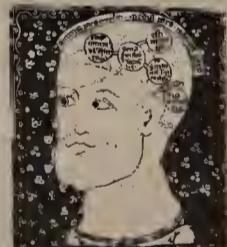
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Neighborhood Groups Set Up Kim Family Fund

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

while friends and family in California mounted a campaign to aid in the search. James and Kati kept their children fed, used their car heater until they ran out of gas, and burned their car's tires.

After four more days, with hope of rescue fading, James set out on foot in the ice and snow, looking for help to save his family. He died from hypothermia on his trek. After spending 10 days in the car, Kati and the girls were found in good condition on Dec. 4. James' body was found Dec. 6.

When the news hit home, neighbors and merchants held vigil for days outside the Kims' small pharmacy at 1767 Church Street. Flowers, children's books, and tiny flickering candles piled up alongside hundreds of handwritten poems and sympathy cards.

Money Starts to Flow

Determined to help the family in a lasting way, Benton established the Kim Family Fund on Dec. 21, at the Bank of America branch on 24th Street. (The fund is separate from the James Kim Memorial Fund created by James' colleagues at Cnet, where he worked as an editor and tech expert.)

The Kim Family Fund, which is cosponsored by 13 Noe Valley organizations, started off with the groups asking their membership for donations of \$50 per person or family. The goal was 500 gifts of \$50, for a total of \$25,000.

Benton says 2,000 to 3,000 people were contacted by e-mail on the first

week. In addition, flyers were put up on light poles and store windows throughout the neighborhood. The notices suggested that residents and merchants do what they could—from writing a check to the fund to shopping at the Kims' Noe Valley store, which has remained open.

As of Jan. 30, the fund had raised \$9,000, and money was still pouring in. Benton says the fund has received donations in amounts ranging from \$10 to \$200.

"You know, it's the checks for \$10 that touch me the deepest," says Benton, adding, "This is one of the ways Noe Valley creates the kind of community we want to live in."

Kati Kim 'Enormously Moved' by Noe's Generosity

Kati Kim, who has shied away from media attention since her ordeal, sent a short note to her Noe Valley neighbors through Benton.

"I give my heartfelt thanks for the outpouring of love and generosity from the Noe Valley community," she wrote. "I have been enormously moved by the kindness exhibited by both strangers and friends alike."

Benton says Kati is trying to gain some sense of normalcy while making the hard adjustment to single parenthood. Kati also is determined to keep her stores running, Benton says. (The Kims' store in the Haight, Doe, has stayed open, too.)

In her note, Kati Kim wrote that a share of the money donated to the Kim Family Fund would be set aside for college tuition for Penelope and Sabine. Another portion will go toward creating the James Kim Technology Fund, which will benefit technology programs in San Francisco's public schools.

"Having been a school teacher and being a public school supporter," Kim wrote, "I want children in addition to my

own to benefit from Noe Valley's generosity."

Restaurants Want to Do More

Once the Kim Family Fund gathered speed, more Noe Valley neighbors got their creative juices flowing. Incanto, the Italian restaurant on Church Street, offered to host an all-Noe food-lovers' feast, to raise even more money for the fund.

"When I got the e-mail asking for \$50, I sent it right in," says Sanchez Street resident Jeremy Emmerson, who also is executive chef at Seasons, the restaurant within the Four Seasons Hotel on Market Street. But later, as Emmerson talked it over with his wife, he realized he wanted to make a larger contribution.

"We don't have a lot of cash, but we can cook. I was thinking about it more as I was walking around Target. I just called Chris [Cosentino, head chef at Incanto] and asked if he thought a dinner benefit for Kati Kim was a good idea." Cosentino answered yes, and the dinner was on.

The event, dubbed "Chefs of Noe Valley: An Evening of Fine Dining to Benefit the Kim Family Fund," will be held on Monday, Feb. 26, and will take over Incanto, with owner Mark Pastore donating the services of his wait and kitchen staff. Several of Emmerson's staff members from Four Seasons will also volunteer their time.

The \$175 per plate dinner hopes to raise \$10,000.

Best Dishes on Parade

Emmerson says after he contacted a few other restaurants, everything just fell into place. The meal will be a "culinary collaboration" of Church Street restaurants' best fare, he says, and will feature five courses with wine.

Deep Sushi chef/owners Ray Tobias and Galvin Gaviola will be in charge of the first course. The second will be cre-

ated by Eric Kuhne and Benny Cheung, chef/owners of Bistro 1689. The third course will be Pescheria owner Joseph Manzare's turn to shine, and will be followed by an entrée offered by Incanto's Chef Cosentino. The dessert will be made by Emmerson himself, and then petits-fours and coffee will be provided by Bridget Labus, pastry chef at the St. Regis Hotel in San Francisco (and a Noe Valley resident as well). Eric's Restaurant and Noe Valley Bakery will provide hors d'oeuvres and bread for the affair.

There are plans for a silent auction to follow the meal. Items up for bid include dinner for two at Jardiniere, a meal at Gary Denko, and brunch at the Ritz-Carlton in Half Moon Bay.

While he's never met Kati Kim or her daughters, Emmerson has small children of his own (ages 3 and 7) and says he couldn't help but empathize with the newly single mother. "Once you've got kids, you look at the world in a different way," he says.

Emmerson says he's familiar with the hard work of creating fundraising events at kids' schools, but he was surprised when he started making the calls for this one.

"Everyone I called was so willing—this was one of the easiest things to come together," he says.

Reservations and payment arrangements for the Chefs of Noe Valley dinner can be made through Incanto Restaurant, 1550 Church Street, open at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday through Monday; or by calling 415-641-1500 or logging on to www.incanto.biz. Seating at the Feb. 26 event will be 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Donations to the Kati Kim Family Fund can be sent to Kim Family Fund, c/o 4104 24th Street, #401, San Francisco, CA 94114. Online donations can be made using PayPal at www.kimfamilyfund.com.

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DeLano Buys Eight Cala/Bells, But Not 24th Street Market

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

owners of the property, but he himself has no personal ownership interest in it. Campana, who is a board member of Noe Valley's Community Benefit District (also known as the Noe Valley Association), wants to assure Bell Market patrons that nothing is going to change at that location in the foreseeable future, and that Kroger is no longer looking to sell the store.

"Kroger is prepared to honor the terms of their lease [on the 24th Street store], which expires in 2009," he says.

Campana would not give any clues as to why the deal did not work out. "That's between the parties," he says.

Some have speculated that it might have had to do with DeLano's interest in changing the name, and that the landlord was against it because the Italian word *campana* means bell. Mark Campana laughs at this notion. "The name thing was not a part of the deal not going through. The current lease does state that the Bell Market sign shall remain during the term of the lease, but all of that goes away in 2009."

Richard May, president of the neighborhood group Friends of Noe Valley, finds it curious that DeLano was interested in such a short lease takeover in the first place. "The grocery industry is a really low-profit industry, so if the DeLanos went in and sank a lot of money in the store and then at the end of three years the landlord decided not to renew the lease, they would lose out. I'm not surprised the deal didn't go through," May says.

Harley DeLano says that even though he and his company have decided to move forward and concentrate on their new acquisitions, he hasn't completely closed the door on Noe Valley. The former president of Cala Foods and Bell Markets in Northern California, who now lives in Greenwood near Auburn, raising cattle and horses, has a soft spot for the neighborhood.

"I've always wanted to be back [in business] in Noe Valley. It's a very special store and a very special place. We're still open for it in case something were to come back to us, and we would still very much like to be your grocers," he says. "But we're respectful of the principal parties in this and their decision."



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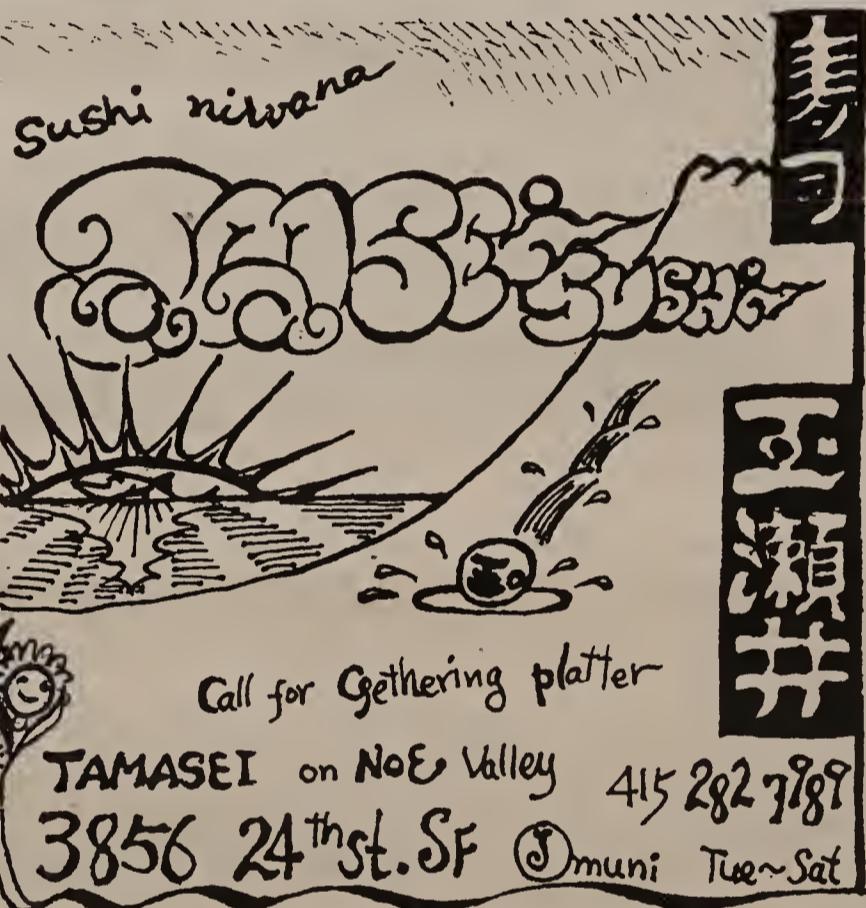
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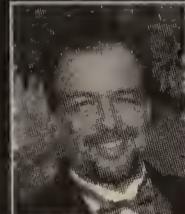
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Rite Aid Closing a Surprise to Workers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

medicine Jan. 7, and transferred prescriptions to the Walgreen Drug Store outlet around the corner on Castro Street. The Rite Aid chain then offered to relocate the dozen or so employees at the Noe Valley branch to any of seven other Rite Aid locations serving the San Francisco area.

The store was down to six workers in mid-January—and they were busy overseeing the liquidation sale of \$900,000 worth of merchandise—everything from aspirin and hair care to cosmetics and pet supplies. Rite Aid will continually slash prices each week in February until the inventory is gone, probably sometime in March.

Several employees said management told them that the 6,727-square-foot store was done in by an untenable rent increase. The company would not discuss financial considerations, but acknowledged that it reviewed "all elements" of operating the store as its long-term lease came to an end.

"It was a business decision to close the store," and it was not "made lightly," said Ashley Flower, a corporate spokeswoman in Harrisburg, Pa. It was "just impossible for us to continue to operate from a business perspective."

End of an Era

In the mid-1980s, the site was the home of a Thrifty Jr. drugstore. Rite Aid, today the country's third-largest drugstore retailer behind Walgreen's and runner up CVS Corp., acquired the Thrifty Jr. chain in 1996 and launched the revamped 24th Street store in May 1998. It earned a reputation for a warm and welcoming environment, and news of its

demise caused pain for both employees and customers.

Tevar, one of the original employees who started with Thrifty Jr. nearly two decades ago as a cashier and rose through the ranks to supervisor, said parting would be difficult.

"I'm sad that I have to leave this neighborhood because I grew, after all these years, to get fond of so many people," Tevar said. "It was like a family."

Popular cashier Mary Packer was another worker who had many farewells to make. "It's sad," she said. "I'm going to really miss my customers. They're all really nice, especially my cuties...."

Pharmacist Alex Wong had an especially close relationship with many of his clientele, who found comfort in his medical advice and understanding demeanor. One regular surprised him with "a very nice tie" at Christmas, and another gave him a box of See's Candy.

"I was kind of devastated when I heard the news. Not for me, but my customers," said Wong, a 13-year veteran who has transferred to a Rite Aid location on Market Street.

Customers Show Their Support

As a touching going-away present, 95-year-old Helen Weinschenk, a 24th Street resident and former owner of the Wooden Heel shoe repair shop (now Mike's Shoe Repair), baked her famous lemon cakes for the workers.

"She was in tears" when she said goodbye, said Escamillo, the store's assistant manager, who has been with the company for 18 years, 11 of them in Noe Valley.

"She's one of my best customers and one of my best friends," added Bernier, the manager, who was moving to Rite Aid's West Portal location after eight years on 24th Street.

Kelly Crispin, who strolled through Rite Aid one day recently to pick up a few

items and scan the shelves of marked-down goods, expressed dismay that the store was shutting down.

"It's disappointing because the employees are really friendly," said Crispin, an eight-year Noe Valley resident. "I come here and they know you by name."

Employees said the closing caught them totally off guard. "I was very numb...it was a real shock," Bernier said. "The store was in decent shape. It was busy and we were a fixture in the neighborhood."

Bernier said he was informed a few days before Christmas, but couldn't immediately tell employees. "That was not much fun. I didn't sleep," he said. "Once everyone knew, it was a big relief."

Other Businesses Eye Site

Local business leaders say they hope the building can be leased quickly so that the block does not suffer the eyesore of a boarded-up storefront. With its prime location, "I don't think it will be vacant very long," said Diane Barrett, co-president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association.

The word on the street is that Wells Fargo Bank has shown interest in relocating a few doors from its current location to the larger Rite Aid space.

"They're on top of each other in that branch," noted Barrett. "They've shown interest, but they show interest in various spots that have come open and they've never moved on it."

Wells Fargo spokeswoman Michele Ashley offered an oblique response to a query about possible interest in the Rite Aid site. The bank is always looking for new opportunities to improve its operations, she said, but it has "no concrete plans" for relocating.

And after such a long tenure in Noe Valley, Rite Aid employee Tevar said relocating to a new branch was the farthest thing from his mind.

"I thought I'd be here forever and retire from here," said Tevar, 53. "I thought this store would last forever." ■



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Prairie Fire

Grandparents' Tough Farm Life Sparks Second Novel by Lloyd Zimpel

By Olivia Boler

If it weren't for his grandmother, Noe Valley author Lloyd Zimpel probably would not have written his second novel, *A Season of Fire and Ice* (Unbridled Books), published in May 2006. The story takes place in the 1880s and is set in the harsh landscape of the Dakota Territory, in what is now South Dakota just north of the Black Hills.

As a child, the 77-year-old author spent summers on his grandmother's Minnesota farm doing chores without the help of indoor plumbing or electricity.

"I found out how life was in the 1880s because my grandmother had transported that way of life to the 1930s," explains Zimpel.

A Season of Fire and Ice is about two neighboring homesteaders whose lives are starkly different. One is a loner named Beidermann, who seems to experience nothing but good luck. His cattle thrive, and he's able to locate water in a bone-dry land. The other is Gerhardt Praeger, who farms the prairie with his wife "Ma" and their seven sons but who struggles to survive. Most of the story is told through Praeger's journal, which relates the hardships his family must endure. Though he tries to maintain his faith in God and the land, Praeger is overcome with envy over Beidermann's good fortune. Inevitably, friction develops between the two men, building to the story's climax. Wrote a re-



Novelist Lloyd Zimpel tries to write a page a day. He also makes a point of strolling from his home on Valley Street to one of his favorite cafés, Martha's Coffee on Church Street.

Photo by Pomelo Gerord

viewer in the *Denver Post*, "Zimpel has crafted a bone-chilling ending worthy of the likes of Cormac McCarthy."

Zimpel's characters had been simmering in his mind for a long time. Back in 1995, he began to write a series of stories about Beidermann, publishing them in various regional literary journals like *Missouri Review*, *South Dakota Review*, *North Dakota Quarterly*, and *Whetstone*. The stories tied together nicely, so he decided to put them together in novel form.

"At first, Beidermann was considerably larger than life. He transcended the problems of the Territory almost by magical means. But as I wrote the stories, he became more an ordinary man who had a lot of luck," Zimpel says.

An excerpt from

A Season of Fire and Ice by Lloyd Zimpel

By God, says Beidermann, but you are a tough customer to please. You do not like my team and you do not like my dogs. Is there anything else about me that you do not like? But if he wants an answer he does not wait for it.

He turns away to tie his handsome team to a sapling, and retrieves his ax from the sledge, and hefts it from hand to hand as its flared blade glints: he has shown it to me before—a tool from the Old Country, he claims, in a manner as if to say it has magical quality.

Throughout the forenoon the clouds lower and the weather grows gray. We sit on the trimmed logs to take our dinner of the wurst and cheese and hardboiled eggs Ma has packed. Beidermann eats his meat and bread with lard without talking and, finishing, wipes his mouth with the back of his mitten and pronounces: It will snow some.

The twins receive this with the gravity they give all Beidermann's opinions, even ones as unremarkable as this, and stop kicking snow at one another to cast sober eyes to the sky and to Beidermann and to me—as if I might challenge Beidermann's certainty, as I am often more than willing to do, if only to deflect somewhat the twins' excessive admiration of him: and while I have not been much successful at this before, I lose more ground now; for Beidermann flatters them by requesting they take his team—his mighty Percherons!—to skid out the logs that remain. To be offered the reins of Pegasus would thrill the lads no more; as with dwarf hands on the leviathan's bridles, into the woods they plunge, and with manly cries come thundering forth, a snubbed log pitching behind in a rain of scraped bark and ice, as the two leap nimbly through the whipping hazelnut branches and dead blackberry vines.

Beidermann's snow comes; with little wind the large flakes, fat with wetness, descend through the still sky in such abundant quantity as to obscure us from each other and muffle the sound of Beidermann's steady ax....

His sledge is near loaded; and I go to bring my team forward, to take on the last load, as the snow falls near as thick as fog, to mute the sound that now comes to my ears: a queer, grunting bellow, like the belly-deep groan of a man wrenching himself from a nightmare. (I have heard it since, in my mind, often.) I cannot see Beidermann; and the twins, at a distance into the brush, draw up at the ugly sound and look back to me, knowing I am not its source, but for assurance that no threat lies in it.

I cannot offer it; for I am no less alarmed than they, and it is with dread that I push through the brush to where the sound of Beidermann's ax has ceased.

He lies an arm's length from its bloodied blade; upon his side, on one elbow, like a man reclining at a Sunday picnic. But he lies on no pretty blanket upon shaded grass; but instead in a bed of trampled, dirty snow and torn branches, and he twists his face around through a screen of falling snow and in a quiet rage says, Now I have done it, for damned sure.

Printed with author's permission from *A Season of Fire and Ice* by Lloyd Zimpel, published May 2006 by Unbridled Books, www.unbridledbooks.com.

Roughing It by Mark Twain. In his teens, works by John Steinbeck, Ernest Hemingway, and William Faulkner gave him "great delight."

When he was about 16, Zimpel sold his first short story to a magazine called *Open Road for Boys*.

"It was three pages about a track runner, and I got \$25 for it. It confirmed that I could do what people all around me were doing. So I kept working at it."

After a stint in the Army, Zimpel graduated from the University of Minnesota and spent a year in the prestigious University of Iowa Writers Workshop. He made his way to San Francisco in the 1950s, landing a job with an insurance company in advertising and settling into a home at 28th and Sanchez streets with his wife. They moved to Liberty Street, and after their divorce, Zimpel moved to Valley Street, where he still lives after 15 years.

In 1963, Zimpel got a job with the Fair Employment Practice Commission (FEPC). The FEPC advocates for those who are discriminated against in the workplace. Zimpel's title was information officer, and he co-wrote two books about minority employment and wrote speeches for the officers. Some of his writing even appeared in a few of Gov. Pat Brown's speeches. At the same time, Zimpel was writing freelance for publications like the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *The Nation*.

In 1971, he published his first novel, *Meeting the Bear: Journal of the Black Wars* (Macmillan), which was inspired by the race riots in Los Angeles in the 1960s and 1970s. He received a coveted National Endowment for the Arts fellowship and decided to write full-time, retiring from the FEPC in 1980.

Since *A Season of Fire and Ice* came out last spring, it has garnered many glowing reviews, including one that likened Zimpel to Edith Wharton. New York reviewer and novelist Carey Harrison wrote, "It's...not only the suspenseful writing that makes 'A Season of Fire and Ice' so hard to put down. This is a splendid book, and it belongs on every reader's bookshelf as a reminder of the forging of America." In December, the *San Francisco Chronicle* book review section honored the book as a notable book of 2006.

Zimpel says his three sons and one daughter are all grown and scattered about the Bay Area, but they often visit their dad and their old neighborhood. He's still friendly with his ex-wife and walks her dog Roscoe every day. And he doesn't neglect his writing.

"I went to school with E. V. Griffith," he says, referring to the poet and editor. "He said we should write a page a day, and that's what I do."

A Season of Fire and Ice is available at Cover to Cover, Phoenix Books, and Bird & Beckett Books and Records. The paperback will be released in April.



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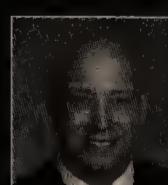
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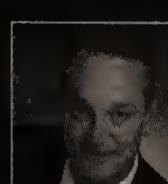
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The Cost of Living in Noe

Buyers Take a Winter Snooze

By Corrie M. Anders

Well, finally! For the first time in six holiday seasons, people stopped falling all over themselves to offer mansionistic prices for 100-year-old cottages in Noe Valley.

Rampant appreciation, bidding wars, and snap decisions—the name of the game since 2000—took a holiday during the last two months of 2006, according to sales figures compiled by Zephyr Real Estate for the *Noe Valley Voice*.

The data shows that 19 single-family homes closed escrow in Noe Valley during November and December. That represents a decline of more than 40 percent from the 32 homes that were sold during the same two-month period in 2005. Condominium sales also fell sharply, tumbling 30 percent. In November and De-

cember of 2006, there were a total of 16 deals, as compared with 23 condo sales during the same period the previous year.

In addition, recent buyers on average paid 99 to 100 percent of the seller's asking price and took about a month and a half to close escrow. By contrast, at the peak of the boom market of the early 2000s, buyers were offering premiums of 10 to 15 percent, and deals were sealed in three weeks or less.

However, the recent lull may not signal a downward trend. Randall Kostick, Zephyr's general sales manager, says the November-December retreat is typical of a normal market, something we haven't seen in a long while. "This is the first true seasonal wintertime in five years...it's the way it used to be," Kostick says. Until this year, the annual December slowdown "took a hiatus while the market went crazy for six years."

Though economists forecast that the Bay Area will experience a generally stagnant housing market in 2007, Kostick thinks a "permanent retreat" in affluent Noe Valley is unlikely. Why? Because two bubble-busters—higher mortgage interest rates and a rise in unemployment—haven't occurred, he says.

"We have people with jobs, and interest rates are good, and the real estate market is healthy," Kostick says. "We're ex-

A Snapshot of Noe Valley Rents**

Type of Unit	Number in Sample	Range of Rents January 2007	Average January 2007	Average A Year Ago
Studio	0	—	—	\$1,078 / mo.
1-bedroom	16	\$1,100 – \$2,750	\$1,740 / mo.	\$1,575 / mo.
2-bedroom	32	\$1,900 – \$3,800	\$2,491 / mo.	\$2,399 / mo.
3-bedroom	8	\$2,600 – \$3,650	\$3,274 / mo.	\$2,963 / mo.
4+bedroom	6	\$5,200 – \$12,500	\$7,034 / mo.	\$5,150 / mo.

** Survey based on a sample of 62 Noe Valley listings appearing on Craigslist.com from Dec. 26, 2006, to Jan. 15, 2007.

NY 2/07

Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
Single-family homes						
Dec. 2006	8	\$1,000,000	\$2,125,000	\$1,477,813	48	99%
Nov. 2006	11	\$870,000	\$2,900,000	\$1,495,455	33	100%
Dec. 2005	15	\$675,000	\$2,145,000	\$1,203,533	37	106%
Nov. 2005	17	\$860,000	\$1,465,000	\$1,145,370	28	109%
Condominiums						
Dec. 2006	6	\$397,000	\$1,688,000	\$889,250	54	102%
Nov. 2006	10	\$695,000	\$1,510,000	\$1,051,000	38	102%
Dec. 2005	14	\$575,000	\$1,510,000	\$890,321	42	105%
Nov. 2005	9	\$392,000	\$1,350,000	\$949,944	20	112%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
Dec. 2006	4	\$1,075,000	\$1,775,000	\$1,333,750	53	99%
Nov. 2006	9	\$925,000	\$2,685,000	\$1,414,731	65	99%
Dec. 2005	4	\$937,500	\$1,716,888	\$1,233,597	56	106%
Nov. 2004	4	\$1,200,000	\$1,806,000	\$1,499,262	22	102%
5+unit buildings						
Dec. 2006	0	—	—	—	—	—
Nov. 2006	1	\$1,565,000	\$1,565,000	\$1,565,000	82	95%
Dec. 2005	1	\$6,160,000	\$6,160,000	\$6,160,000	99	104%
Nov. 2005	0	—	—	—	—	—

* Sales figures include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. In this survey, Noe Valley is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The Voice thanks Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyr.com) for supplying the sales data.

NY 2/07

pecting good things in 2007." Just one month into the new year, he adds. Noe Valley homes are again starting to attract multiple offers.

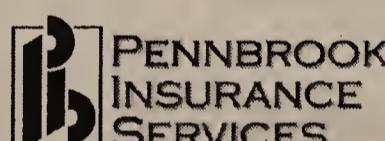
Retreat or not, Noe Valley remains an expensive place to live. A four-bedroom, 3½-bath home in the 3900 block of 25th Street, between Sanchez and Church streets, was the priciest home sold in November. Buyers paid \$2.9 million for the 4,000-square-foot residence.

December's costliest detached home was a \$2.1 million dwelling in the 500 block of 30th Street, between Noe and

Castro streets. It has four bedrooms, 3½ baths, and 2,750 square feet of living space.

The premier condo sale during November was a three-bedroom, three-bath unit in the 100 block of Chattanooga Street, between 22nd and 23rd streets. The 2,000-square-foot property sold for \$1.5 million.

In December, a five-bedroom, three-bath condo sold for \$1.7 million in the 4000 block of 26th Street, between Noe and Sanchez streets. The unit had 2,280 square feet of space.



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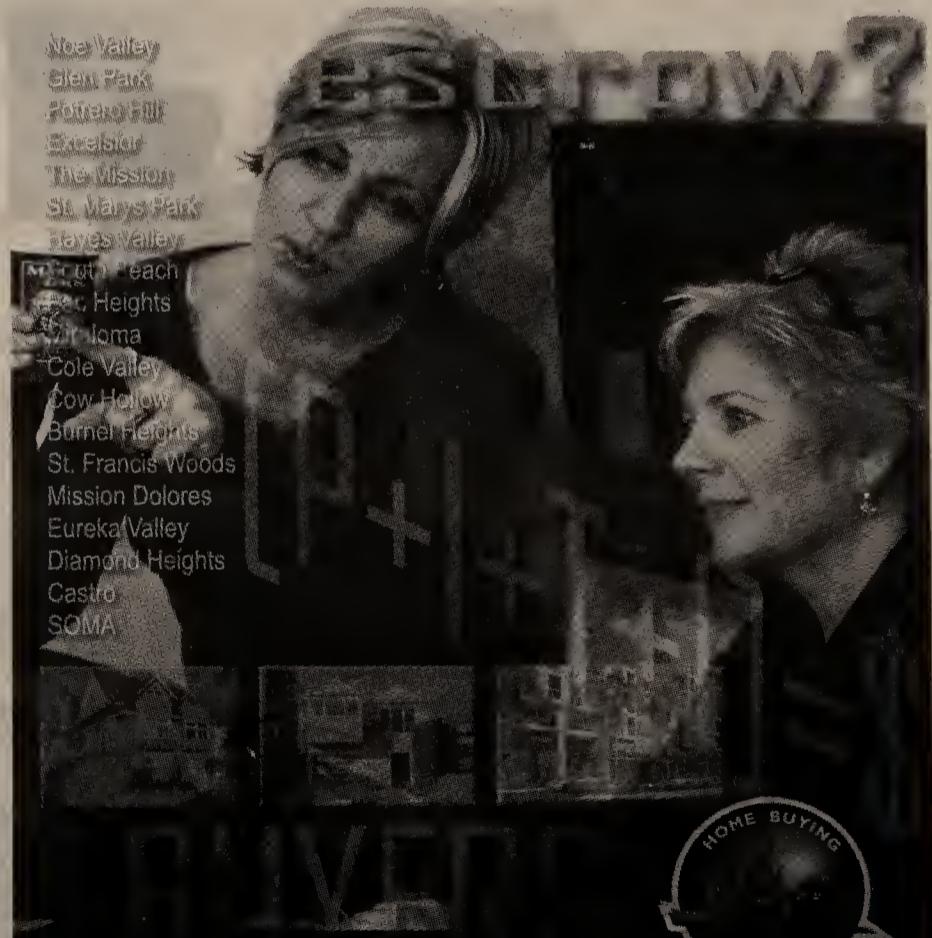
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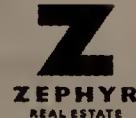
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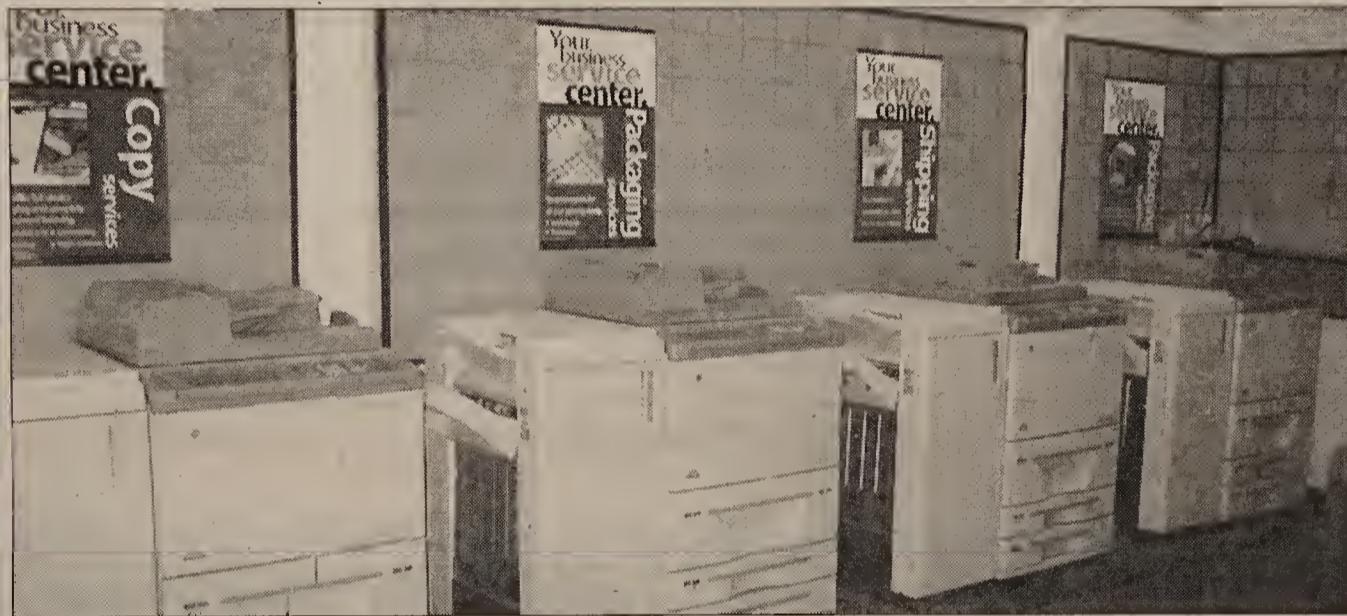
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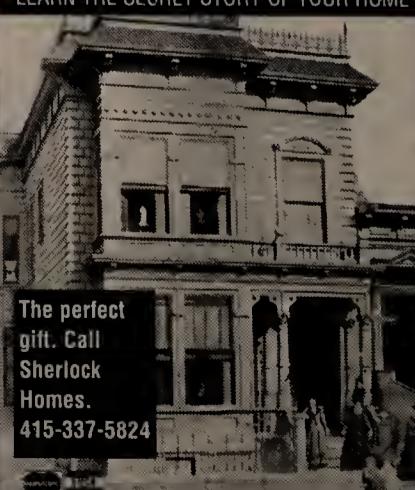
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POLICE BEAT

Police Beat is a review of crime incidents in Noe Valley occurring in the most recent month for which we have statistics. The area covered in the Voice survey is bordered by Grand View, 21st, Fair Oaks, and 30th streets. The November–December 2006 crime data was culled from incident reports filed at Mission and Ingleside Police Stations.

Thieves Busy During Shopping Season

By Erin O'Briant

Property crimes plagued Noe Valley during the months of November and December 2006. Store thefts were common throughout the neighborhood, especially along 24th Street. From Nov. 1 to Dec. 31, 60 incidents of theft were reported in Noe Valley. There were 15 cases of vandalism, and 35 vehicles reported stolen. Drug incidents were low, with just three cases in the neighborhood.

Residential burglaries hit Noe Valley especially hard, with 28 reported during November and December. (See story on a burglar's arrest at right.) Eight cases of assault took place during the two months, but no homicides or rapes were reported.

Six street robberies were reported in Noe Valley during November and December, a continued improvement over the rash of robberies during the summer and early fall of 2006. The first case was an attempted robbery on the street with bodily force on 23rd Street between Chattanooga and Dolores streets. The next day, another street robbery, this time with an unspecified "dangerous weapon," took place. Victims reported two strongarm robberies on the street during the middle of November—one in which the suspect dragged a screaming woman half a block before wresting her bag and fleeing into a vehicle. Police later arrested two suspects in connection with the crime.

On Monday, Nov. 27, at 10:40 p.m., a person wearing a ski mask pulled a gun on a victim at Sanchez and Duncan streets and took the victim's money. In an at-

tempted robbery during the afternoon on Friday, Dec. 1, two suspects demanded their victim's iPod as he exited Muni at 30th and Church streets, but the victim ran away up Chenery Street.

About an hour later, police arrested a suspect in a street robbery at 22nd and Guerrero streets, just outside Noe Valley. The suspect had robbed a woman of her backpack at knifepoint. According to information released by Ingleside Police Station, the responding officers canvassed the area and found a man in possession of a backpack near Mission Playground. The suspect attempted to flee, but officers detained him, recovering a large knife and the victim's backpack. The victim was able to make a positive identification of the man, who was then arrested.

Plainclothes officers conducting a burglary watch in the early hours of Thursday, Nov. 16, witnessed a person take a marker from his pocket and scrawl graffiti on various storefronts near 24th and Castro streets. The suspect was accompanied by three other people; the officers detained all four and took two into custody.

What to Do If You Are Mugged

Mission Police Station issued the following suggestions in its Tuesday, Nov. 28, newsletter: "If you are accosted by armed assailants, do as they say. Try to get as good a description as you can. If they have masks or cover their faces, look for any significant, distinctive clothing they may be wearing. Pay close attention to their shoes. Many suspects may change jackets, etc., but few change their shoes right after a crime."

The Voice thanks Noe Valley Police Officer Andrew MacIlrath for his help in providing data for this month's Police Beat.

Online Reporting

The SFPD now has an online reporting system for the following crimes:

- Lost Property
- Theft
- Vandalism
- Vehicle Tampering
- Vehicle Burglary
- Harassing Phone Calls

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'Hot Prowl' Burglar Caught

By Erin O'Briant

The man suspected of committing a string of burglaries in Noe Valley during November and December 2006 is in custody awaiting his preliminary hearing, according to Lt. Tom Buckley of the San Francisco Police Department's Burglary Detail.

Buckley confirmed that Ronnie Frazier, age 53, was arrested at about 5 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 21, as reported in the *San Francisco Chronicle* that day. Officers chased Frazier through Dolores Park after they saw him getting into a stolen vehicle. The officers "had spotted the car and knew a burglar had been using it," said Buckley. "They were staking the car out."

Frazier is suspected of committing a series of "hot prowls" burglaries, in the area bordered by 20th, Castro, 26th, and Douglass streets. (See this month's *Letters to the Editor* for a resident's alert.)

"If you go into a house and it's occupied, it's called a hot prowls," explained Buckley. "That's the pinnacle of what we do [in the Burglary Detail], which elevated our concern that much more."

Frazier apparently did not force entry into the houses he is suspected of burglarizing. Instead, he entered through unlocked doors and windows. "Lock your doors and windows," Buckley said. "I can't say enough about protecting yourself and making sure your residence is protected."

Buckley said Frazier had been out of jail, where he had served a sentence for burglary, for only two weeks when the burglaries in Noe Valley began.

Frazier was booked on suspicion of burglary, possessing stolen property, auto theft, reckless driving, and committing a parole violation.

Community Crime Meeting Feb. 8

Neighborhood groups have organized a community meeting, scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 8, to discuss the rise in residential and commercial crime in Noe Valley. According to Friends of Noe Valley President Richard May, who will moderate the discussion, the goal of the evening is to "talk to each other and with the police and the DA's office and begin to solve the problem."

Panelists will include Capt. Paul Chignell of Ingleside Police Station and Capt. John Goldberg of Mission Police Station, as well as a representative from the District Attorney's office. Attendees will have time to ask questions, and SF Safe, a crime prevention organization, will present information on forming block watches. "Criminals need to know we aren't sitting ducks anymore," May added.

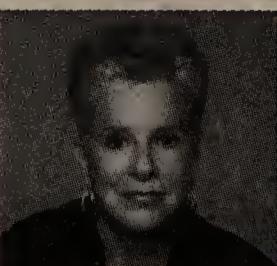
The meeting will take place from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at St. Philip's Church on Diamond Street between 24th and Elizabeth streets. Free parking is available in the parking lot off 24th Street between Castro and Diamond and on the basketball courts off Elizabeth Street between the same cross streets. All Noe Valley residents and merchants are invited to attend.

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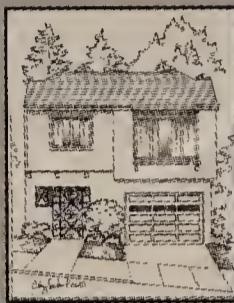
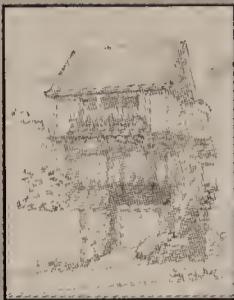
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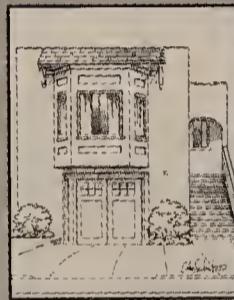


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LOCAL GEMS

Rose Quartz Sparkles for 21 Years

By Kate Volkman

Rose quartz, to those who are keen on the metaphysical properties of stones, attracts love. It's also the name of Yvette Chamberland's jewelry store at 3904 24th Street. She explains the name's origin: "People have a good feeling for the stone. I wanted to name the store something that would attract people. And I love stones."

Chamberland's love of stones prompted her to leave her career, first in psychology, then as a clothing designer, to make jewelry. And her desire to work for herself is what prompted her to open Rose Quartz 21 years ago.

The 200-square-foot store, whose walls are covered in shimmering earrings, was formerly a carriage house for the Victorian that now houses St. Clair's Liquors at the corner of 24th and Sanchez streets. Between Rose Quartz and a second carriage house, currently occupied by Bay Castle Cleaners, there once was an icehouse. "People would deposit quarters in the machine on the sidewalk, and I'd hear this chain going squeak, squeak, squeak, clunk, and the ice would drop into the holder," Chamberland remembers.

Between the days of carriage houses and Chamberland's occupancy, the space was used as a one-car garage, and then it hosted a series of seasonal merchants and the early home of Ocean Front Walkers (the sock and pajama store now a half-block up the street). When Chamberland first moved in in 1986, the storefront was still a garage, which she tented with billowy white linen, causing the tiny shop to look like a Middle Eastern bazaar.

Finally the landlords remodeled about seven years ago, and the garage was transformed into a store with a real ceiling and window. "The nice thing about not having a garage door anymore and having a real window and a door is that little kids don't come in and ask me if I park my car in here at night," Chamberland jokes.

The kinds of jewelry featured at Rose Quartz, as well as the number of items Chamberland carries, have changed over the years, too. When she first opened, the only jewelry she sold was her own, and the space was rather bare. Now she carries designers from the world-over, and the store is brimming with every kind of jewelry imaginable, from earrings to bracelets, to pins and necklaces.

"Yvette has upgraded the style," says longtime employee Jody Hayes. "When I first came here, we'd never have had something from an elegant designer like Janice Gerardi."

Chamberland describes Gerardi's work as "detailed yet simple. It's the way she combines colors and stones, like this necklace of rose quartz, lemon citrine, and pink topaz."

Another favorite line is Silver Seasons. "All of the designer's molds are taken from nature," Chamberland explains. There's mimosa, cranberry, bittersweet, olive, azalea, cherry, and even edamame—the green soybeans offered as appetizers in Japanese restaurants.

"People's biggest misconception about jewelry is that it's too expensive," Chamberland laments. "But once people come in, they actually find there are so many things that are affordable." Prices range from \$3 for sterling silver earrings, to



Rose Quartz owner and artist Yvette Chamberland, with the help of her dog Isabella, fulfills her Noe Valley customers' needs for an abundant supply of shimmering adornments at her jewelry boutique on 24th Street.

Photo by Pamela Gerard

\$300 for a 14k gold ring with a semi-precious stone.

On a recent afternoon, James Lick Middle School student Hedda Carney dashes in to buy a present for her friend's 12th birthday. She carefully selects earrings designed like dice and easily pays the \$8 price tag. Her mom, Deena Zacharin, remarks, "For little girls this age, it's nice to be able to buy unique earrings that aren't too expensive, because they're still young and they don't want to spend a fortune. And they're sterling silver, too."

Chamberland agrees. "Jewelry can be fun, and add color and art to your life."

"I think of beauty as a self-love thing," says Hayes. "It's an expression of oneself. You don't have to have a great body to wear jewelry. It makes you feel good, makes you look a little prettier. Guys go to the hardware store and buy a little tool, and that makes them happy. I think it's equivalent. Jewelry makes women feel feminine and beautiful."

Both Hayes and employee Sarah Soward are artists. Hayes says she has more of a classical style, while Soward is "very hip. She likes snakes and wears pink in her hair. She's very helpful for people who want things like that. I'm not as cool."

Yet Hayes shines when it comes to helping customers select colors to complement coloring and clothes, Chamberland says. "If a customer describes what someone looks like, she can put something together for them."

"I start with color just because often times that eliminates 80 percent anyway," Hayes explains. "This lady who just came in had a chocolate brown dress, and she said, 'Should I buy a chocolate brown necklace? My friends say that's the thing to do.' And I said, 'Sounds dreadful. Why would you want brown, brown, brown, and brown, if you've got brown hair?' So I said, 'How about pink?' So we started playing with pink, and she ended up getting a bunch of pink things that worked."

Customer Marla Martin peruses the jewelry cases and tries to keep her hands in her pockets. "It's hard not to buy everything in here," she says. "Yvette has so much inventory and so many different styles. I love jewelry. This is the greatest little store in Noe. And Isabella is one of the reasons."

Isabella is Chamberland's dog of nine years. She lounges on the floor and gratefully accepts a pat from any customer

who offers it. A rottweiler-poodle mix (Chamberland often refers to her as a "rottendoodle"), Isabella is Chamberland's constant companion, and the dog's image, along with that of her predecessor, Amber the golden retriever, graces the sandwich board outside.

"A lot of people come in and ask if I sell dog jewelry because of my sign, but I don't," Chamberland smiles. "It's just a way for people to remember who we are and to notice the store."

And they do. "When we're not here, more people come in and ask for my dog by name than ask for me. Everybody's always asking, 'Where's Isabella?' No one comes in and says, 'Where's that cute little Yvette today?'"

Edith Piaf purrs from the stereo as Chamberland takes a moment's rest between customers. She leans back, takes a long drink of water, and reflects on her business, which has lasted more than two decades. "There have been ups and downs—I made it through the dot-com

bust. But I've been really lucky. Since I've been at this location for a number of years, I have enough established clients who will come back from wherever they've moved in the Bay Area and abroad.

"Plus, people in this neighborhood are so nice. I've heard people who work in large department stores downtown complain that they often have difficult, irate customers. That happens so rarely here. People here are respectful. They're warm and friendly. It's just a great neighborhood to have a business."

Kate Volkman is writing a series of articles on longtime businesses in Noe Valley. She also helps families and companies preserve their history. You can reach her at kvolkman@gmail.com.



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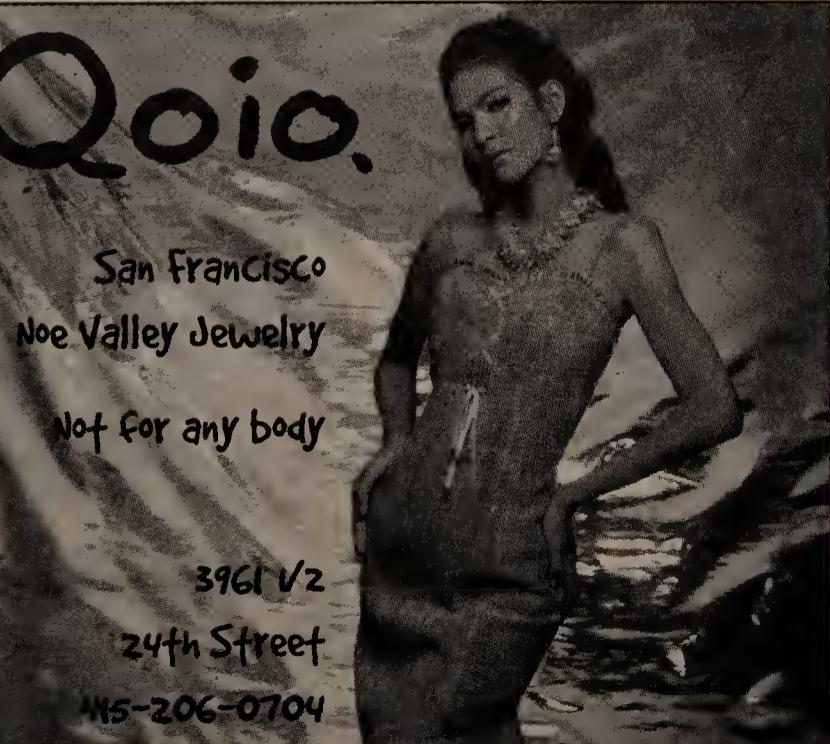
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SHORT TAKES

Garden Tour Plans Budding

The Friends of Noe Valley committee that pulled off last year's successful Noe Valley Garden Tour has already picked a date for the 2007 tour, and is busy looking for six neighborhood gardens to feature this year. The walk, through some of the neighborhood's loveliest backyard gardens, will take place on Saturday, June 9, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. If you'd like to submit your garden for consideration, please e-mail Friends president Richard May at rambooks@pacbell.net.

May says the six gardens will be chosen for geographic diversity, differences in theme or appearance, and overall excellence. A seventh destination on the tour, he says, will be the large, flower-filled garden cultivated by the seniors at On Lok 30th Street Senior Center.

Tickets for the tour will be on sale for \$10 at local stores, through Friends, and at selected gardens on the day of the tour. All net proceeds will be donated to the Peace Garden project at James Lick Middle School, which aims to re-landscape the Noe Street side of the school and display student art in the garden. Last year's inaugural garden tour raised \$3,200 for neighborhood beautification, and the proceeds were donated to plant additional trees along 24th Street in Noe Valley.

CBD Crew Seeks Storage Space

The crew hired by the Noe Valley Community Benefit District to keep "Downtown Noe Valley" clean needs a small space to work from, says operations manager Bryan McCue. "Basically, we just need a one-car sized space to keep the maid carts and some supplies in," McCue explains. "The daily workers...would pick up things in the morning and return them at the end of the day."

Two to three workers use those carts to sweep, power-wash, remove stickers, and clean up graffiti on 24th Street and Castro streets. McCue is hoping to find someone who will donate space—possibly in trade for some additional cleaning—in or near the area between Douglass and Church streets and Elizabeth and 26th streets. If you can help out, give McCue a call at 415-559-8683.

Raise Money for Rocket Dogs

All are invited to celebrate and support Rocket Dog Rescue on Saturday, Feb. 24, from 5 to 9 p.m. at Terra Mia Studios, located at 1314 Castro Street near 24th Street. The fundraiser will include cocktails and an auction, and all money raised goes directly to rescue dogs from over-crowded Bay Area shelters.

According to Rocket Dog Rescue spokesperson Laura Beck, bidders will have a chance to take home goodies from the Giants and Gump's, as well as from spas, restaurants, and shops all over San Francisco. A \$20 donation is suggested, but everyone is welcome regardless of ability to pay. For more information, call Beck at 415-756-6418.

Art Exhibit Questions Paradise

The Little Tree Gallery, just a short walk from Noe Valley at 22nd and Guerrero streets, is featuring a new exhibit by San Francisco artist Paul Zografakis, running from Saturday, Feb. 3, through Sunday, Feb. 25. The solo show, titled "Paradise Lost," will include installation, video, sculpture, and drawing that looks at the human struggle to find paradise. An opening reception will take place at the gallery on Feb. 3 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Little Tree Gallery is located at 3412 22nd Street. For more information, call



Trumpeter Dave Scott will play New Orleans-style jazz for a Mardi Gras celebration at Bethany United Methodist Church on Sunday, Feb. 18.

Photo by Garrett Maclean

Bethany's Mardi Gras to Highlight Jazz Artist

By Bruce Pettit

Bethany United Methodist Church has been known to have rather wild Mardi Gras worship services. The church expects the festivities to be even livelier this year, when musician Dave Scott, who plays with two nationally renowned jazz bands, leads the Mardi Gras celebration on Sunday, Feb. 18.

Scott, Bethany's director of music since August, plays trumpet with the Boz Scaggs and Marcus Shelby bands. He also teaches trumpet at the Community Music Center in San Francisco and at the Jazz School in Berkeley.

Mardi Gras is the last bash before the spiritually reflective season of Lent begins, and celebrants typically let loose before self-denial sets in on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 21). Bethany has adopted a New Orleans atmosphere on the Sunday before Lent for the past several years. Bethany pastor Lauren Chaffee says Scott's trumpeting skills are a perfect fit for this year's service, which begins at 11 a.m. at the church at Clipper and Sanchez streets.

Scott came to Bethany from Glide Memorial United Methodist Church after six years with its praise band. There he found the legendary Rev. Cecil Williams to be similar to a jazz musician—both on a social scale and in sermons. "He could sense what was needed, in any given moment—improvising and creating something special and meaningful in places where there was nothing before," Scott says. Still, of the mega-church in San Francisco's Tenderloin Scott says, "Glide isn't for someone who wants more of a feeling of intimacy" in worship. At Bethany, "I want the music to be fresh, varied, vibrant, and fun. I especially like jazz- and blues-influenced, gospel-sounding chords."

Growing up in Ann Arbor, Mich., Scott got hooked on jazz chords in the second grade after an assignment from his piano teacher. In the third grade, he preferred baseball and wanted to quit piano, but his mother told him that he, not she, would have to tell the piano teacher. "I kept putting it off. A year later, I was over the hump and didn't want to quit anymore."

He took nine more years of piano and started trumpet in fifth grade. He discovered the heartache of Chopin, ambiguous harmonies in Debussy, and vibrant jazziness in Gershwin. "When I was 16, I went to the National Music Camp at Interlochen, Michigan, and discovered a whole bunch of other music- and art-loving kids, just like me. There I was fully accepted and not a band geek."

Scott went with the Boz Scaggs band, he explains, when "Boz needed a trumpet player who would have ideas about what to play even when he wasn't sure himself what the trumpet player should be playing [Scaggs plays guitar and sings]. Also, he needed someone who doubled as a keyboardist."

Scott invites people to join the Bethany choir, which rehearses Thursdays at 6 p.m. He also wants to start a Bethany youth band for kids 8 to 18, to rehearse at 7 p.m. He can be reached at davescott@sbcglobal.net, or you may call the church at 415-647-8393.

415-643-4929 or log on to www.littletreegallery.com.

Low-Cost Job Training

The Mission Campus of City College of San Francisco offers a variety of job training classes, and it's not too late to join in some of the spring semester sessions that started mid-January, says career counselor Kate Ryan. "We have morning, afternoon, and evening classes," Ryan says. "I will be happy to meet and advise anybody who is interested."

The temporary Mission Campus of CCSF is located at 375 Alabama Street near 17th Street; the campus will move to a new permanent location this fall. Programs include computer skills, medical office receptionist certificate, digital printing and publishing, construction administration, emergency medical technician, and bridge to biotech.

Ryan notes that these programs can help students qualify for Employment Development Department benefits as well as City College financial aid and stu-

dent support, including job search help, internships, and tutoring. City College credit courses are \$20 per unit; non-credit courses are free. For more information, call Ryan at 415-551-1133 or e-mail kryan@ccsf.edu.

AIDS Benefit Hits a High Note

Celebrate love and raise funds for the Stop AIDS Project with Deep Red Jazz at the Elbo Room, located at 647 Valencia Street near 18th Street, on Saturday, Feb. 10. Shea Breaux Wells and Her Jazz Quartet will perform a Valentine's Day concert from 6 to 8 p.m.; doors open at 5:30 p.m. Wells, an accomplished jazz vocalist, will be accompanied by trumpet player Bill Ortiz, pianist Noam Lemish, bass player Lorenzo Farrell, and drummer Alex Aspinall. La Crema wine will be served and is included in the price.

Admission is \$50, and all proceeds go to the Stop AIDS Project, an organization that works to prevent the spread of HIV among gay, bisexual, and transgendered men in San Francisco. For tickets, call

415-575-0160, ext. 260, or visit www.deepredjazz.kintera.org.

Sprucing Up Your Sidewalk

The Bureau of Urban Forestry is making it easier for homeowners to beautify their sidewalks by accepting permit requests to convert part of a sidewalk into a landscaped area.

According to the Department of Public Works, private property owners are responsible for the care and maintenance of about two-thirds of the trees in the city, as well as the sidewalks around those trees. They know that trees, plants, and flowers not only look attractive but can also help reduce flooding. When residents spruce up the greenery near their property, however, they should be careful not to cut the top off of a tree. Doing so can result in a fine.

For more information on landscaping permits and tree care, call 415-554-6700 or visit www.sfpdpw.org.

Indie Films Send Fans Reeling

More than 100 independently produced films and videos will be shown Feb. 8–20 at three local venues as part of the ninth annual San Francisco Independent Film Festival. The event, affectionately known as IndieFest, opens with the latest film by David Lynch, *Inland Empire*, which will screen at the Castro Theatre at 429 Castro Street. Lynch's long-time producer and spouse, Mary Sweeney, will be on hand to discuss the film.

Festival films will also play at the Roxie Cinema at 3117 16th Street near Valencia Street and at the Victoria Theatre at 2961 16th Street between South Van Ness and Mission. Tickets are \$10 for regular screenings, \$25 for opening night, and \$15 for closing night; opening and closing night prices include after-parties.

The complete festival lineup is available online at www.sfindie.com. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit the web site or call 415-820-3907.

Free Help with Taxes

Now through April 15, free tax filing help is available through the United Way's "Earn It! Keep It! Save It!" program. Taxpayers in households that earned less than \$42,000 in 2006 are eligible for services at more than 100 sites throughout the Bay Area, including one at 450 Guerrero Street and another at 3120 Mission Street. The program also provides financial information, including classes on how to make the most of a tax refund. Classes are available in a variety of languages and offer information on everything from car buying to buying a first house. To make an appointment at a tax site, call 800-358-8832. To learn more about classes, call 415-217-3664 or visit www.EarnitKeepitSaveit.org.

Protect Your Pets in a Disaster

Most pet owners have wondered what would happen to their animals in an earthquake or other emergency. Now the city's Animal Care and Control division has issued a set of guidelines for helping your pet through such a crisis.

In its Pet Disaster Plan brochure, the agency recommends making sure your pet is clearly identified with tags or a microchip, crate-training animals so that they are easy to locate if frightened, and preparing a first-aid kit ahead of time.

Among the items you'll want to have in your pet emergency box are an extra collar and leash, a seven-day supply of food and water, medications, vaccination records, your pet first-aid kit, and plastic bags for cleanup.

For more information on emergency procedures, call Animal Care and Control at 415-554-6364 or visit www.sfdpca.net.

This month's Short Takes were compiled and written by Erin O'Briant.

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SF CHRONICLE TOP 100 BAY AREA RESTAURANTS FOR 2003 & 2004

BLOG LINES

Brett's Wild Ride: Birth of a Bistro

By Brett Emerson

*Editor's Note: Ever dream of opening a restaurant in San Francisco? You first might want to chat with Glen Park resident Brett Emerson. After 10 years of working as a professional cook at such popular places as LuLu, S'Biou, and Greens, Emerson is six months away from unveiling his own small neighborhood bistro, on Castro near 24th Street (in the spot once filled by Castro Computer). He plans to call it Olallie—for the berry—and to serve rustic seasonal foods and wines. Since he landed the space last spring, he's been wending his way through the byzantine city planning process. To keep up his strength, last fall Emerson started a diary of his restaurant quest on his food blog *In Praise of Sardines* (www.inpraiseofsardines.com). Updates on the Olallie saga, also known as "The Wild Ride," pop up there every few weeks or so. Here's a journal entry Emerson made in October. We're sure it will whet your appetite for Olallie's grand opening, currently set for summer of 2007.*

October 3, 2006

I've done it. I am now the proud owner of an elongated shoebox in which I hope to fit my little restaurant, the one I've dreamed of opening for the past decade. Let the real fun (and hard work) begin!

Before I start my tale of floor plans and sledgehammers, duct tape and copper pipes, let me back up and tell you the story of how I secured the future home of my restaurant.

Back in February [2006], as I sat in a local hangout waiting for my tea to steep, I lazily flipped through the community newspaper from a nearby neighborhood [the *Voice*, as it turns out]. One sentence, on page 28 or so, shot a bolt of excitement up my spine: "On Jan. 31, the Board of Supes approved changes to the planning code that will allow three new restaurants or bars to move onto 24th Street." That was it. No more details.

My curiosity piqued, I later searched the Web for details and discovered an earlier article in a previous issue of the same paper. I learned that our local supervisor, Bevan Dufty, had, with the help of members of the neighborhood and merchants associations, drafted legislation to lift a 20-year moratorium on new restaurants along the 24th Street corridor. The new legislation paved the way for three new restaurants over the next five years. Pretty cool, I thought. I like Noe Valley. Then I promptly forgot about it, as I was flirting with buying another place at that time.

Fast forward a few months. Growing increasingly despondent over the futility of my restaurant quest, I decided to look beyond the list of currently available restaurants and started browsing *all* commercial listings. Listings for clothing stores, laundromats, art galleries, and video stores now joined the pizza places and Quiznos franchises (why are these always up for sale?) in my e-mail inbox. Although every restaurant class I'd ever taken had advised me to buy as close to "turnkey" as possible and warned me to avoid attempting to convert a non-restaurant space into a restaurant, I covered my ears, closed my eyes, and marched on. Ignorance is bliss, no?

What's all the fuss over converting a commercial space into a restaurant? Just

two silly little issues, really: time and money. Floors need to be ripped up to install plumbing and gas lines, walls need to be torn open to upgrade electrical wiring, and a sturdy location needs to be found up on the roof to support the enormous motor that sucks grease and soot out of the kitchen. Construction horror stories and delays are as familiar to restaurateurs as molten chocolate cakes are to local diners.

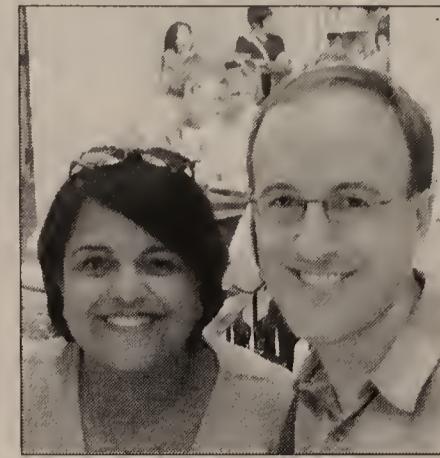
(For the record, my style of cooking is really best described as "San Francisco Bay Area regional cooking." I'm a card-carrying member of Slow Food. While the spicing of each dish may vary, my dishes never fail to adhere to the "field to fork" philosophy of seasonal and sustainable cooking that is as much a hallmark of our regional cuisine as gumbo and jambalaya are of New Orleans'. I ask the farmers what's best that day, and that's what I serve. I can't imagine cooking any other way! Call it Californian, Cal-Med, New American, whatever makes you happy.)

All the construction tasks pale, however, when standing in the shadow of the most frightening beast that must be confronted.

Yes, before you, the aspiring restaurateur, can take on any other exciting challenges, you must enter into the dark, cold, musty halls of the Labyrinth and slay the Minotaur City Hall and face the Planning Commission.

All the construction tasks pale, however, when standing in the shadow of the most frightening beast that must be confronted. Yes, before you, the aspiring restaurateur, can take on any other exciting challenges, you must enter into the dark, cold, musty halls of the **Labyrinth and slay the Minotaur City Hall and face the Planning Commission.**

But I'm getting ahead of myself. I decided to focus on the positive examples, the stories of happy chefs I'd met who had successfully built their own restaurants from vacant laundromats and such. If they could do it, maybe, just maybe, so could Namita and I. After many a long heart-to-heart, my



Namita and Brett Emerson hope to open their new restaurant on Castro Street, Olallie, in early summer.

wife and I decided we only had one life to live and we might as well pursue our passions and go for broke.

After looking at a few duds, we discovered the small storefront location on Castro Street, and really liked the location. How could we not? It's just off the main drag of a charming, family-oriented neighborhood that boasts its own little farmers market. The space is just the size I've been looking for, somewhere between 1,100 and 1,300 square feet—big enough to hold 40 guests, more or less. At the time we were looking, the space was occupied by a successful computer repair store, which has since moved a block and a half up the street to a larger corner location.

Just as I had done at the countless other places I'd looked at, I first checked to see what the zoning of the property was. (As an aside, in the past few years, I've learned that every square inch of San Francisco is governed by the insanely detailed City and County of San Francisco Municipal Code Planning Code, a.k.a. "the Code." Every address resides in a particular district, which bears its own special zoning regulations. Most neighborhood commercial districts also carry their own rules and regulations, which determine the types of businesses allowed, the business hours, the size of signs, etc. Trust me, ignorance was indeed bliss.)

The property on Castro Street resided within the "24th Street Noe Valley Neighborhood Commercial District." A light went off as I suddenly recalled

that article I had read a few months earlier. Three new restaurants are allowed. There was a good chance this space could work!

Next, we met with a brilliant architect who knew more about restaurants and the Code than I could hope to learn in a dozen lifetimes. Over the next two to three months, he helped us draft and then file the complex paperwork, including detailed drawings of the existing space and of the changes we intended to make. There were nearly a dozen requirements to satisfy. We learned that our application would be the test case for the legislation that permitted three new restaurants. In other words, if approved, our restaurant would be the first of the three new Noe Valley restaurants. (Note for locals: The new restaurants opening on Church Street are not governed by the 24th Street regulations.)

We also met with members of the neighborhood, such as the head of the merchants association, to garner support. We even tried to meet with Supervisor Dufty, but he chose to remain neutral. We did everything we could, short of kissing babies. As far as we could tell, with the exception of one person who called the Planning Department to inquire about the restaurant's hours, no one had opposed our application. But still, we were apprehensive. There were some issues surrounding the interpretation of the specific wording of the legislation.

Finally, a couple of days before Namita had to fly off to New York to complete her graduate courses, we went before the Minotaur, er. Planning Commission to present our case.

Attending the weekly Planning Commission meetings is a chance to see **bureaucracy** democracy in action. The commission consists of a tribunal of seven commissioners, who listen to the opinions of members of the community, then debate, and finally vote on issues concerning the Code. A majority of four votes is required to gain the commission's approval. Several times over the course of the afternoon (and evening), a few commissioners would leave the room to use the bathroom or perhaps grab a bite to eat, so the meeting would have to recess until at least four commissioners were present.

The meeting began at 1:30 p.m. We patiently waited for our application to come up. As we listened to debates over thorny issues like regulations surrounding new billboards and medical marijuana dispensaries, we gradually realized how piddly our little application was. Still, it seemed that even no-brainers, like whether or not to allow a long-dormant utilities building to house a new private high school (duh!), had opponents ("It will bring gangs"). Each issue seemed to take longer to discuss than the one before it.

Finally, eight hours later at 9:30 p.m., our application came up. There were only four commissioners remaining (the other three had gone home), so all of them had to vote in favor of our application. Our architect made a quick, 90-second presentation.

Four votes. Four "yays." And two big sighs of relief!

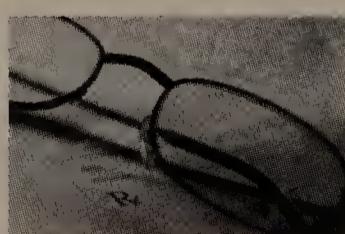
For more on the birth of Olallie restaurant, check out Brett Emerson's blog at www.inpraiseofsardines.com

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Where Is Noe Valley? The buildings sport Victorian treatments and trees abound. But though this corner is on Noe Street, it's not the neighborhood you'll usually find us in. Can you guess the cross street? By the way, that's not Florence's Mustang.

Photo by Jock Tippie

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STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular feature of the *Voice*, profiling new stores and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we introduce a new face on Church Street's antique row.

WHEN MODERN WAS

1504 Church Street near 27th Street
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Once upon a time, everything old was new. Hence the name of Church Street's latest shop, When Modern Was, which offers a unique collection of antique and artistic objects for the home and garden.

Dona Taylor, co-owner of Gallery of Jewels on 24th Street, joined with Kimberly Karnes, an interior designer who lived on Elizabeth Street but now resides on the Peninsula, to open the shop in the former Mia's Flowers space the week before Christmas. The two longtime friends

purchased the space last fall, gutted it, and redesigned the interiors to create what Taylor describes as the home and garden version of her jewelry boutique. The store straddles the line between showroom and gallery, furniture store and gift shop.

"We have a modern twist on an antique store. These are not your grandmother's antiques," says Karnes.

The majority of the store's inventory comes from professional and local consigners. Recent acquisitions include a retro chaise lounge in leopard-print fabric, a metal birdcage, an 18th-century painted wardrobe (selling for \$2,400), a wooden rocking crib, delicate crystal lamps, and colorful vintage glassware ranging in price from \$18 to \$45.

But to describe the shop simply as an outlet for antiques would be misleading. Taylor and Karnes have chosen to include an eclectic array of new art, furniture, jewelry, and gift items from a bevy of Bay Area artists and designers. Katie Gil-martin's cheeky linoleum prints appear throughout the space, while rugs from Palo Alto's Medallion Rugs pepper the walls. Flannel pajamas printed with fly-

Dona Taylor, co-owner of Gallery of Jewels on 24th Street, and her longtime friend Kimberly Karnes (not shown) have opened an antique and home design store on Church Street called When Modern Was. The shop will host a wine and cheese reception for the neighborhood on Feb. 17.

Photo by Pamela Gerard



ing pigs rest atop baskets of Rubii lingerie sets, while handpainted Pashmina shawls grace a table showcasing ceramic Asian statues. Along with an extensive selection of vintage jewelry, the shop also carries local designer Amy Levine's beaded baubles. Monthly art shows featuring local artists are also in the works.

In addition to the retail offerings, the shop offers a home and garden redesign service. Karnes and Taylor will come to a client's home, rearrange furniture and accessories the client already owns, and fill in the gaps with items from the store.

"They can live with them for a while, choose to purchase some or all of what we have there, and create a whole new vibe

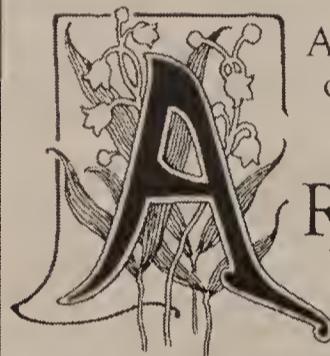
and feel for their home," Karnes explains.

The store will hold a wine and cheese opening reception on Saturday, Feb. 17, from 3 to 8 p.m. The public is invited.

When Modern Was is open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

—Lorraine Sanders

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FEBRUARY 2007

Feb. 1-10: The eighth annual SF BLUEGRASS & Old-Time Music Festival features nightly performances at venues in Noe Valley, the Mission, Potrero Hill, Upper Market, and West Portal. For a schedule, call 665-0408 or check out www.SFbluegrass.org.

Feb. 1-24: First Exposures, a mentoring program for at-risk youth, celebrates its 10th anniversary with "Developing History," an exhibit featuring archival images and the PHOTOGRAPHS of 16 students. Tues.-Sat., noon-5 pm. SF Camerawork, 657 Mission St. 512-2020.

Feb. 2, 3, 10, 11, 13 & 14: Bring your Valentine to "WOO AT THE ZOO," an erotic tour of the animal kingdom for adults only. 6 pm; Feb. 11 at noon. SF Zoo, Sloat Blvd. at 47th Ave. 753-7236; www.sffzoo.org.

Feb. 2, 9 & 23: City College offers a free series of videos and speakers on HEALTHY EATING for older adults, followed by chair yoga and food samples. 8:30 am-noon. The Sequoias, 1400 Geary Blvd. 551-1122.

Feb. 2, 9 & 23: Call in and express your emotional state at Neighborhood Public Radio's STATE OF MIND stations, mounted throughout the Mission District. 1-888-361-4NPR; www.sox.org.

Feb. 2-4: The "San Francisco ARTS OF PACIFIC ASIA" show and sale features rare artifacts from the past 2,000 years. Fri. & Sat., 11 am-7 pm, Sun., 11 am-5 pm. Fort Mason Festival Pavilion. 310-455-2886; www.caskeylees.com.

Feb. 2-28: The SF Library's BOOKMOBILE is open Mondays and Wednesdays, from 10:30 am to 1 pm. 665 Elizabeth St. 557-4353.

Feb. 2-28 & March 1-31: "Where the Light Is Good: LEO HOLUB: 70 Years of Photography," is a retrospective of works by Noe Valley resident Leo Holub. Tues.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm. The Himmelberger Gallery, 445A Sutter St. 391-8383.

Feb. 2-28: Travel into the incredible world of the HONEYBEE at a free exhibit, "Journey Into the Hive." Tues.-Sat., 10 am-5 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600; www.randallmuseum.org.

Feb. 2-28: Courtly painting and vibrant folk art created during the 18th and 19th centuries are on view at the "Princes, Palaces, and Passion: The ART OF INDIA's Mewar Kingdom" exhibit. Tues.-Sun., 10 am-5 pm. Thurs. 10 am-9 pm. Asian Art Museum, 200 Larkin St. 581-3500; www.asianart.org.

Feb. 2-28: The NOE STROLLS "play-group on wheels" departs Holey Bagel on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 am. 3872 24th St. www.noestrolls.com.

Feb. 2-28: Precita Eyes offers MISSION TRAIL MURAL WALKS. Sat., 11 am (meet at 24th Street BART Plaza in Café Venice); and Sun., 1:30 pm (meet at Precita Eyes Mural Arts and Visitors Center, 2981 24th St.). 285-2287.

Feb. 2-28: City Guides offers FREE WALKING TOURS including "Murals and the Multi-Ethnic Mission," Sundays at noon. Meet at the Women's Building, 3543 18th St. 557-4266; www.sfguides.org.

Feb. 2-28: The Noe Valley SENIOR CENTER serves hot and nutritious lunches for people over 60, on weekdays at 12:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 648-1030.

Feb. 2-28: Chris Sequeira leads classes in TAI CHI. Mon. & Tues., 6 pm, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. For the location of 10:15 am Wed. & Fri. classes, call 773-8185 or 650-756-6857.

Feb. 2-28: Bands play Afro-Cuban salsa, Latin funk, samba, hip-hop, and reggae nightly at the ELBO ROOM. 9 pm. 647 Valencia St. 552-7788; www.elbo.com.

Feb. 2-March 6: Ratio 3 Gallery hosts "Thirty-three Days," an exhibition of new work by Mitzi Pederson, who creates

three-dimensional SCULPTURE. Sun., noon-5 pm and by appointment. 903 Guerrero St. 821-3371; www.ratio3.org.

Feb. 2-March 31: Noe Valley resident DAN HOYLE's one-man performance "Tings Dey Happen" continues at the Marsh. Thurs. & Fri., 8 pm, Sat., 5 pm. 1062 Valencia St. 800-838-3006; www.themarsh.org.

Feb. 3: Learn WINTER COMPOSTING at a free workshop at the All-In Common Community Garden. 10 am-noon. Corner of 23rd between Folsom & Shotwell. 731-5627; www.gardenfortheenvironment.org.

Feb. 3: In celebration of BLACK HISTORY MONTH, Yolanda Rhodes performs "Under the Nkula Tree" for all ages. Noon. Mission Library, 300 Bartlett St. 557-4277.



Tim Rayborn will bring his seven-act folkloric ballet *The Flame and the Shadow* to the Brava Theater on Feb. 3.

Feb. 3: Composer TIM RAYBORN presents *The Flame and the Shadow*, a folkloric ballet in seven acts blending traditional music from the Balkans, Middle East, and India with original orchestral music. 8 pm. Brava Theater, 2781 24th St. 641-7657; www.brava.org.

Feb. 6: The SPCA offers a free PET LOSS support group. 7:30-9 pm. 2500 16th St. 554-3050.

Feb. 6, 13 & 27: Share songs and stories at the INFANT/TODDLER LAPSI at 10:30 am and the afternoon story time for preschoolers at 3:30 pm. Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Library, 3555 16th St. 355-5616; www.sfpl.org.

Feb. 6: TIN HAT performs a concert celebrating the release of its first CD, *The Sad Machinery of Spring*. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238; www.noevaleyministry.org.

Feb. 6-27: Little Tree Gallery hosts "Paradise Lost," an EXHIBIT featuring video, sculpture, and drawings by artist Paul Zografakis. Opening reception Feb. 3, 6 to 9 p.m. 3412 22nd Street. 415-643-4929; www.littletreegallery.com.

Feb. 3-25: REBECCA FISHER performs "The Magnificence of the Disaster," her tragicomic story of the new South. Sat., 8 pm, Sun., 7 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia St. 800-838-3006; www.themarsh.org.

Feb. 3-28: THE MARSH presents a solo show by Todd LeJeune, "Don't Let Go of the Potato." Thurs.-Sat., 8 pm. 1062 Valencia St. 800-838-3006.

Feb. 4: Rocket Oog Rescue has some cute CANINES who need homes. Pick one out from noon to 4 pm in front of Zephyr Real Estate, 4040 24th St. 642-4786.

Feb. 4: Poets DI PRIMA and SHERI-D WILSON read from their work. 6 pm. Bird & Beckett Books, 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.

Feb. 5: The ODD MONDAYS SERIES introduces Amy Gorman, author of *Aging Artfully*, and screens *Still Kicking* by filmmaker Greg Young. 7 pm at 1021 Sanchez St.; no-host dinner at 5:30 pm at Noe Valley Pizza, 24th & Sanchez. 821-2090; jlsender@webtv.net.

Feb. 6: The SPCA offers a free PET LOSS support group. 7:30-9 pm. 2500 16th St. 554-3050.

Feb. 6, 13 & 27: Share songs and stories at the INFANT/TODDLER LAPSI at 10:30 am and the afternoon story time for preschoolers at 3:30 pm. Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Library, 3555 16th St. 355-5616; www.sfpl.org.

Feb. 6, 20 & 27: Librarians from the Noe Valley Library present LAPSITS for babies and toddlers at 10:15 am, and preschool STORY TIME at 11 am. Bethany UMC, 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393; www.sfpl.org.

Feb. 6-27: The Kadampa Buddhist Temple offers introductory BUOHOHIST MEDITATION classes. Tues., 7-8:30 pm; Sun., 10-11:30 am. 3324 17th St. 503-1187.

Feb. 7: FILMMAKER Judy Irving offers a rough-cut screening of her new documentary, *Nineteen Arrests, No Convictions*, about bar owner George Farnsworth, the oldest person to swim from Alcatraz to San Francisco on New Year's Day. 6:30-7:30 pm. Mission Bay Branch Library, 960 Fourth St. 355-2838.

Feb. 7: Join Tex Dworkin (Global Exchange), Ella Silverman (Transfair USA), and Tom Neuhaus (Sweet Earth Organic Chocolates) for a panel discussion on FAIR TRADE. 7 pm. Intersection, 446 Valencia St. 626-2787; www.theintersection.org.

Feb. 8: St. Luke's Hospital holds a VOLUNTEER orientation the second Thursday of the month, from 3 to 5 pm. 3555 Cesar Chavez St. 641-6538.

Feb. 8: Friends of Noe Valley sponsors a panel discussion on CRIME IN NOE VALLEY. Guests include the Ingleside and Mission District police captains. 7:30 pm. St. Philip's Church Hall, 725 Diamond St. rambooks@pacbell.net.

Feb. 8-11: The Theatre of YUGEN presents a solo performance by Shinichi Iova-Koga, *Milk Traces*. 8 pm. NOHspace, 2840 Mariposa St. 621-7978; www.theatreofyugen.org.

Feb. 8, 15, & 22: PRESCHOOL STORY TIME for ages 3 to 5 begins at 10:10 am, and a bilingual lapsit for newborns through 3-year-olds starts at 11 am. Mission Library, 300 Bartlett St. 557-4277.

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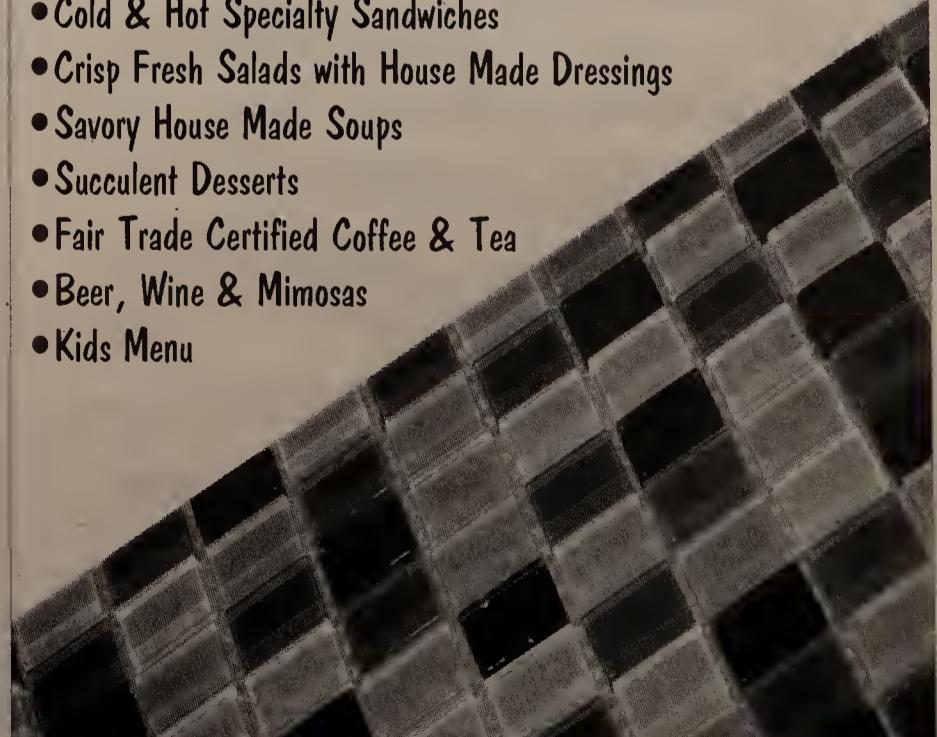
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• CALENDAR •



Feb. 8-20: The SF Independent Film Festival screens 100 FILMS in three venues: the Roxie, Victoria Theatre, and the Castro Theatre. For a schedule call 820-3907 or visit www.sfindie.com.

Feb. 9: BLUEGRASS fans, round up your cowboy hats and dancin' shoes for performances by Jackstraw, The Stairwell Sisters, and The Wranglers. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238; www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

Feb. 9-11: The San Francisco TRIBAL & TEXTILE ARTS SHOW features pre-1940s artifacts from around the world. Fri. and Sat., 11 am-7 pm; Sun., 11 am-5 pm. Fort Mason Festival Pavilion. 310-455-2886; www.caskeylees.com.

Feb. 10: Get ready to welcome the Chinese New Year with crafts, entertainment, and flowers and plants for sale at the Lunar New Year FLOWER MARKET. 10 am-2 pm. SF Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum, Golden Gate Park. 661-1316; www.sfbotanicalgarden.org.

Feb. 10: Former ballet dancer Valerie Baadh leads "GAMES Parents Play," one-on-one activities to play with toddlers and early school-age children. 2-5 pm. SF Movement Studio & Workshops, 333 Valencia St. Register at 218-7088 or www.sfmovement.com.

Feb. 10: California POET LAUREATE Al Young reads from his work and discusses his career. 4-5 pm. Main Library, Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St. 557-4400.

Feb. 10: Jazz vocalist Shea Breaux Wells and her quartet perform Deep Red Jazz, a benefit for the STOP AIDS Project. 6-9 pm. 575-0160, ext. 260; www.elbo.com.

Feb. 10: The BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL continues with the Peter Rowan Bluegrass Band and the Alhambra Valley Band. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238; www.SFbluegrass.org or www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

Feb. 11: Protect your dog or cat at a free MICROCHIP CLINIC at Animal Care and Control. 1-4 pm. 1200 15th & Harrison. 554-6364.



Celebrate the Year of the Boar at SF Botanical Gardens' Lunar New Year Flower Market in Golden Gate Park Feb. 10, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Feb. 11: The Noe Valley Chamber Music Series presents the ORINDA EMSEMBLE performing a concert of English Baroque song, "Pleasures and Follies of Love." 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 648-5236; www.nvcm.org.

Feb. 13: Tureeda Mikell performs a Black History Month program, "Rhythm, RAP, AND RHYME," for ages 5 and younger; sponsored by the Noe Valley Library. 10:30 am. Bethany United Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

Feb. 14: Quiet your mind as you walk the LABYRINTH at the Noe Valley Ministry. 6:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

Feb. 17: Learn to make traditional Chinese New Year dishes with SHIRLEY CHAO. 10 am-2 pm. Crissy Field Center, 603 Mason St. 561-7690; www.crispyfield.org/center.

Feb. 17: Guy Washington presents a slide show on the Maritime Routes of the UNDERGROUND RAILROAD. 1 pm. SF Maritime Park, Fisherman's Wharf, Jefferson and Leavenworth. 447-5000; www.nps.gov/safr.

Feb. 17: KITTY ROSE celebrates the release of her new CD, *Kitty Rose Live at the Ryman*, originally recorded in Nashville in 1972. 8 pm. LGBT Community Center, Rainbow Room, 1800 Market St. www.kittyrose.com.

Feb. 18: The MARDI GRAS celebration at Bethany United Methodist Church, led by trumpeter and choir leader Dave Scott, will feature New Orleans-style jazz. 11 am. 1268 Sanchez Street. 647-8393 or davescott@sbcglobal.net.

Feb. 18: Welcome the YEAR OF THE BOAR with the Zoo's resident warthogs and Kune Kune pigs. 11 am-3 pm. SF Zoo, Sloat Blvd. at 47th Ave. 753-7080; www.sffoo.org.

Feb. 18: POET Dan Libethson reads from his new collection, *A Family Album*. 4:30 pm. Bird & Beckett Books, 2788 Diamond St. 586-3733.

Feb. 18: The Taylor Eigsti Trio performs a free concert, JAZZ VESPERS. 5 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

Feb. 19: Author Dick Meister discusses aspects of the LABOR MOVEMENT. 7 pm. The Odd Monday Series, Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 821-2090.

Feb. 20: Michelle Tea hosts the RADAR SALON with writer Eileen Myles and poet Justin Chin. 7:30 pm. Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Library, 3555 16th St. 355-5616; www.spl.org.

Feb. 22: PARENT'S PARTY Night at Peekabooque, regularly scheduled for the last Thursday of the month, features refreshments and a chance to meet neighbors. 5:30 pm. 1306 Castro St. 641-6192.

Feb. 22: Perform in "American Fido," an open-mike comedy contest to find the WORST MUSICIAN in San Francisco. Sign-up 7:30 pm; show 8 pm. The Dark Room, 2263 Mission St. 401-7987; www.amfido.com.

Feb. 23: More than 100 artists create art before your very eyes at the seventh annual MONSTER DRAWING RALLY, sponsored by Southern Exposure. 6-10:30 pm. Verdi Club, 2424 Mariposa St. 863-2141; www.soex.org.

Feb. 24: OWL, the Older Women's League, presents a free HEALTH CARE FORUM. 9 am-12:15 pm. Call 989-4422 for location.

Feb. 24: A garage and BAKE SALE sponsored by 10-year-old Alice Kincaide benefits the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation. 10 am-4 pm. 3774 26th St. 824-7535.

Feb. 24: Parents can find out how to apply for financial aid at a FREE CASH FOR COLLEGE WORKSHOP. 1-4 pm. San Francisco Main Library, 100 Larkin St. 202-7944; www.sfcollgeaccess.org.

Feb. 24: Support Rocket Dog Rescue at a fundraising AUCTION featuring gift dinners, spa services, and prizes from the Giants and Gump's. 5-9 pm. Terra Mia Studios, 1314 Castro St. 756-6418.

Feb. 24 & 25: The SYMPHONY OF COLOR Quilt Show features the fabric creations of quilters Alex Anderson and Letitia Chung. Sat., 10 am-5 pm; Sun., 10 am-4 pm. Concourse Exhibition Center, 635 8th St. 661-6285.

Feb. 24-28: 250 winners from 28 schools exhibit their innovative projects at the 25th annual San Francisco Middle

School SCIENCE FAIR. 10 am-5 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600; www.randallmuseum.org.

Feb. 25: Composers and singers merge at the second annual MUSICAL MATCH-MAKER Event for Fresh Voices IV. 2 pm. Goat Hall, 400 Missouri St. 289-6877; www.goathall.org.

Feb. 26: Chefs of Noe Valley host a five-course DINNER at \$175 per plate to raise money for the Kim Family Fund. Seating 5:30 to 9 pm. Incanto Restaurant, 1550 Church St. 641-1500; www.kimfamilyfund.com.

Feb. 27: Jaime Jacinto, Chad Sweeney, and Michelle Matz share the stage with younger writers at a multigenerational READING. 7 pm. Intersection, 446 Valencia St. 626-2787; www.theintersection.org.

Feb. 27: Lucy Jane Bledsoe recounts her adventures in ANTARCTICA and reads from her new book, *The Ice Cave*. 7-8:30 pm. Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Library, 3555 16th St. 355-5616; www.spl.org.

Feb. 28: The San Francisco JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL screens Jay Heyman's documentary, *Bernie*. 7:30 pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. 978-2700.

IN LIKE A LION, OUT LIKE A LAMB

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will roar into Noe Valley on March 2. If you have items for our calendar, please send them by **Feb. 15**. E-mail calendar@noevalleyvoice.com. Or you can write *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Noe Valley events take priority, but we try to squeeze in as many other items as possible.

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Tom Herz and Saralie Pennington paused during their picnic lunch above the ancient town of Eze. After a reunion in Nice, they toured the Côte d'Azur, the Mediterranean coast of southeast France known for its fashionable resorts but sadly lacking in good community newspapers published only in English.



Thirty-seven-year Noe Valley resident **Margaret Culver** visited Star City in Russia last August and displayed her Noe Valleyan passport during her pose with Cosmonaut **Vladimir**.



Clay Weins makes his way through the Panama Canal in this July photo. While sharing the waterway with some massive freight haulers, he was able to read every page of his favorite hometown journal.



Michael Tayloe and Howard Johnson found a scenic spot to display their copy of the Noe Valley Voice at a remote section of the Great Wall of China.

March to the mailbox and send your photo and caption info today to the Noe Valley Voice, Attn: Readers, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114, or e-mail editor@noealleyvoice.com. Thank you!



Our Foreign Correspondent. There are not many monuments left standing in modern-day Beirut, Lebanon, where photographer Najib Joe Hakim visited in the fall of 2006. So he chose a shot from his room at the Mayflower Hotel in Beirut's Hamra district. Many foreign correspondents, including the famed Graham Greene, made their home there during Lebanon's civil war.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim

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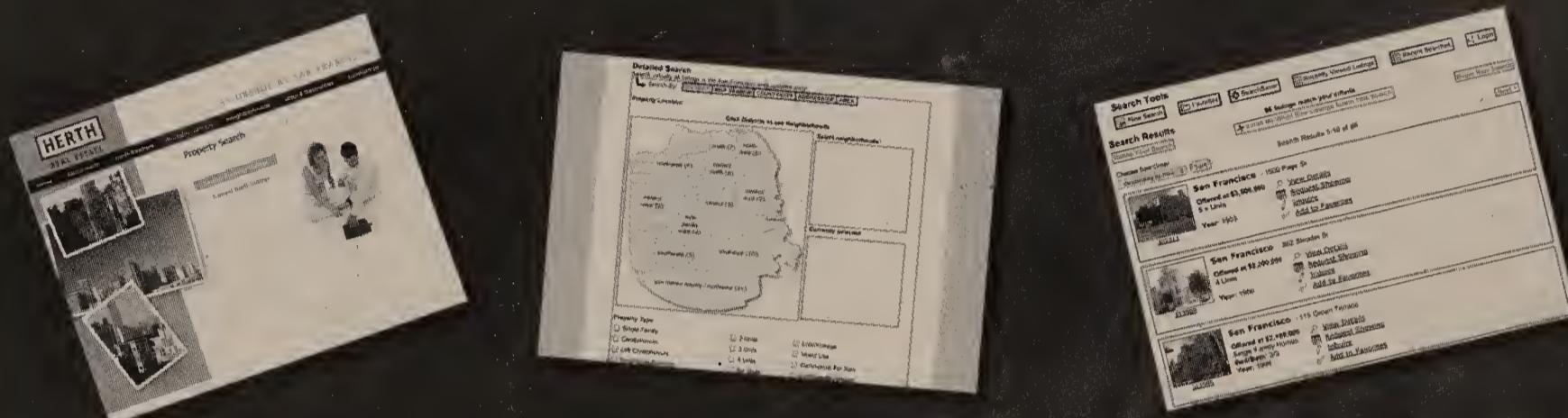
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Therapists Tell Us: Little Steps Go a Long Way

By Laura McHale Holland

We've all experienced it. We ring in a new year with relish. We make big plans. As the weeks wear on, we get absorbed in our routines, responsibilities, and vexations. Then, if we're at all a thinking human, certain harsh realities start monopolizing our thoughts: war in Iraq, terrorist bombings, global warming, Darfur, Katrina, AIDS, and let's not forget the ever-rising cost of living. The news is so alarming, the future looks hopeless. Should we bury our head in the sand? Go watch *American Idol*?

Well, that's one answer. But to find out some better ways to buck up, the *Voice* turned to the experts. We asked several mental health practitioners to respond to the question: How do you hold on to your optimism throughout the year, even while continuing to read the headlines? Here's what they had to say.

KATRINA CHILD
Marriage and Family Therapist
24th Street
415-255-3279

The beginning of a new year is often symbolically important to people. It's a time of renewed optimism and efforts. To sustain optimism about the world throughout the year, there are a number of things you can do. It's really important that we do things that we find meaningful. That can be involvement in activities like volunteer work, being politically active, doing work that you believe in or love, challenging yourself to try new things—and surprising yourself.

It can be really helpful to experience oneself continuing to grow and change in positive ways. Spending time with animals, with children and the people you love is really important. So is having genuine connections with people you can talk freely with about how you're feeling about the world and your place in it.

And sometimes taking a break from the news media can be soothing when you're really finding yourself getting pretty down. It can help you experience the world through different lenses. Another thing is to be very selective about your sources of information. It's also important to sometimes remind oneself to actually sit back and consider some of the positive changes that are happening in the world, whether it's environmental legislation or civil rights legislation that may have changed for the better recently, or something small in your community.

We are in a period of so much change. I can't emphasize enough the importance of being involved, even on a really small scale, donating time or money to local causes or writing letters. It's important to stay connected to the political process in some way.

A lot of people feel really isolated when experiencing the difficult facets of what's happening in the world. My experience, especially as a therapist, is that many people are feeling these things very deeply. So, when feeling troubled, upset, or affected by bigger political issues, connecting with other people who are thinking about the same things is really essential—and doing something, taking action.

KOEN BAUM
Licensed Marriage and Family
Therapist
24th Street
415-646-0565

We all, in general, as human beings want to feel like we have been useful, productive, or contributing in some way to humanity or to the people in our lives.

NOE SPEAKS

That's how we feel worthwhile and sense that our time is not being wasted. Most of us want to feel like we are part of the solution rather than part of the problem. And in a time where there is so much difficulty or turmoil—whether it's in politics or the environment or the high cost of living—and where every day we're all walking around with a lot of stress and a lot of things on our minds, if we do something that we feel contributes to humanity, even if it's a really small thing, we can feel like we are a part of the solution. This is true even if it's showing somebody compassion or not arguing with somebody when we could argue with them.

Even if we don't give a homeless person some money, for example, if we say something kind or we look into the person's eyes, it connects us to our own spirituality or our own humanity, and we feel positive about it. A lot of times nowadays, we feel things are so out of our control, and there's a longing for us as human beings to feel like even if somebody blows the world up, or even if we don't have control over global warming, we want to feel like, at least, we did some small thing to have somebody feel a little more positive while this earth is still spinning and we are still alive.

As much as negativity and stress there is, there's also a lot of beauty in life. And there are people working on large scales and smaller scales for equality and justice. But even if you do something on a small scale like go home to your partners or children or parents and just say, "I really appreciate your taking out the garbage," you're contributing to the positiveness of life in the midst of so many things that can get you down.

If you find yourself sitting and stewing either in traffic or at home, one thing to do is make a gratitude list of what you are thankful for today. Name 10 things. It could be your children or your job, any kind of thing that you are grateful for. Also, in stalled traffic, try to look over at somebody else in a car and smile, or look up in the sky. Think of one of your favorite places to be, and just imagine the serenity that you get being in that place. Or, if you're at home and stewing, and it's hard to motivate yourself to do something, put on a favorite piece of music that you haven't listened to for a long time.

ALAN WOLF
Psychotherapist and Licensed
Clinical Social Worker
Dolores Street
415-577-4485

Self-care is really important. Nurture yourself. Know when to turn the news off if it gets to be too overwhelming, and nourish yourself with some positive activities.

It pulls people from depression to have a proponent or advocate. I work as a clinical social worker, and part of the view of clinical social work is context. We look not just at ways to help engage people in the process of personal change but also at how to connect with others to facilitate change in society as far as inequities go, of which there are so many, unfortunately. So, the more people can actually participate in some sort of social transaction, it gives them an opportunity to feel more personally empowered, connected to others and less isolated. And, in general, it just feeds the soul. That's one approach to maintaining your optimism in the face of lots of dispiriting circumstances. It's also good to surround yourself with people who are hopeful and actually doing something that makes a difference. It's not always easy.

There's reason to be hopeful. There ap-

pears to be a sea change with the change in the control of the Senate and the House. So, that's always good. It's important to look at the positive things that are occurring and to gain some sense of strength and momentum from that.

SUSAN FRANKEL
Marriage and Family Therapist and
Life Coach
24th Street
415-282-5242

A lot of maintaining a sense of optimism is about taking one piece at a time, in a sense, managing things in small bits, and trusting yourself. It starts with faith, and it's faith in a lot of different ways, not necessarily spiritual. But it certainly can anchor people to have faith in something a little larger than the self, whatever it might be. Being able to make an impact, even in a small way, so you don't lose sight of the possibility of being able to impact your life and your community, keeps people hopeful. The larger picture does seem enormous when thinking about the state of the world right now. But if you keep it small, and keep one foot in front of the other, there are lots of ways the world is hopeful and lots of ways you make ripples in a small pond. That's what I try to encourage people to do, take a little bite out of things.

I feel pretty hopeful, even in light of a lot of treacherous things. I was watching Gerald Ford's funeral, and I remember that time, and all the people involved in that period of time, which was both very hopeful and hopeless, politically and universally. There was so much going on in the 1960s and 1970s. People made big strides in government, changed things, and got more hopeful. I tend to have a more positive perspective on things. Otherwise, I couldn't do this work.

If you're feeling hopeless, you have to go out and change your perspective. People do that differently, for instance, going to the ocean, climbing a mountain, taking your dog out for a walk, doing volunteer work, or stretching yourself a little bit. All of these can get you out of the box you get in when you feel hopeless. It can be as simple as saying hello to somebody you wouldn't say hello to, reading a book about faith, or going to church, temple, or synagogue. You have to ask yourself what it is that makes you feel alive. What is it that makes you bubble and simmer? If people can get in touch with that, they can

spark a different perspective.

When you feel deprived, give something to someone else. Give a little bit of your own energy. Doing volunteer work is a classic way. Cook a meal for someone who's homeless. Be generous. Spark a smile on somebody else. That can change your whole mood. When people feel hopeless, they are looking at huge, big-picture things instead of realizing you can impact the world in tiny ways and change everything.

DEAN ABRAMSON
Marriage and Family Therapist
24th Street
415-267-4848

My background is in transpersonal psychology, which uses Eastern and Western psychological approaches. I work with people on self-empowerment, helping them see what they can do and how they can influence and affect the people around them. It's almost a kind of "think globally, but act locally," where you are able to be more of a positive influence on the people around you, and that, hopefully, can spread.

I also work with people in terms of creativity. When people tap into their creativity, they feel as if they're making a difference, not just in themselves but also in the world. It's a way of looking at things spiritually, too. Politics is not all of life, but just a part of life. We have a much larger spiritual presence. But if enough people get involved in local political activities, going to protests, writing letters to Congress, and that kind of thing, it's empowering.

I also just let people talk about their anger regarding the situation and being able to get some perspective, because people can be overwhelmed by the news. It's important to realize that the news is a big part of life, but it isn't everything. I worked with one client who said, "I've been really depressed." I asked, "How long have you been depressed?" "Ever since Bush became president," he said. We found ways to help him feel more involved in the community and in the political sphere, so he felt that, at least, his voice was being heard.

I also encourage people to get out in nature, realizing that nature is much bigger than the politicians who are trying to run our lives. I think by empowering ourselves, we take away that sense of empowering these leaders. If you think about them all the time and get depressed about it, essentially you're giving them the power they want over you. I try to help people take back their own power, finding ways to make it more internal.

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FLORENCE'S
FAMILY
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Illustrated Reminiscences
by Florence Holub

How I Almost Became a Nun at the Age of 21

Editor's Note: Here's another gem from our Florence Holub archives, originally published in the February 1994 issue of the Voice.

Upon reaching my 75th birthday in January [1994], I couldn't help but remember another landmark day in 1940, the year I came of age. At the time, I was attending classes at the California School of Fine Arts, later renamed the San Francisco Art Institute.

Several girlfriends at school shared the same birthday, January 25, so we met in the lunchroom at noon to honor the occasion. Each of us had brought a special edible creation to share. I had baked and assembled a strawberry shortcake loaded with berries and whipped cream, which attracted a number of hungry, uninvited students for as long as the cake held out.

It was such fun that we were put in the mood for another party, and since Valentine's Day was coming up, we scheduled the event for then.

Over the next couple of weeks, everyone joined in to ensure a gala affair, contributing records and a player to dance to, planning creative refreshments, and constructing artful decorations to enhance the school library where the party would be held.

But then suddenly for me, "the party was over," as they say. Less than a week before February 14, my father declared in a most forceful manner that he had decided to send his youngest son (my brother Warde) off to reform school, and his daughter (me) off to a nunnery!

My father's wrath stemmed from a letter from my brother's school, Balboa High School, stating that Warde had been absent for 17 consecutive days. This bit of information coincided with the recent disappearance of gasoline from the tank of my father's Nash sedan, used only on weekends.

When confronted, my brother confessed that he had not only been cutting class, but also taking his friends out joyriding while the family was away.

My father was furious, and he didn't mince words when making the announcement about my brother's impending banishment. And since I too had been continually disregarding the household curfew—keeping my father awake night after night, he said—I would also receive drastic punishment.

We the accused were instantly filled with apprehension and stricken into obedience, with Warde hurrying off to school like a good boy, and me rushing home after school to tend to my chores as the family cook and housekeeper. In this social void, the two of us had time to reflect upon our misdeeds, as well as our father's difficult position.

Since our mother's untimely death from cancer when she was only 43, our father had been left with three teenagers on his hands. He had assumed the role of both mother and father, and he had performed it nobly. Usually he was good-natured and understanding, but he could be strict and unyielding when the occasion called for it.



An added annoyance at the time came in the form of a summons from the principal of Balboa, requesting a meeting to talk about Warde. Since my father had no desire to take time off from his job, he sent me in his stead.

The principal, Mr. Schmaelzle, remembered me as a former student, and when he learned of the devastating loss of our mother, he was so understanding that he offered to keep his eye on Warde to see that he graduated the following year.

Despite this reassurance, fear and anxiety continued to permeate my thoughts, even invading my artwork! In printmaking class I drew the specter of a nun dressed in voluminous black, reading the good book as she slowly walked within the cloisters under a dark and foreboding sky.

Meanwhile, the valentine spirit among my friends had escalated to a joyful level, while I, knowing full well I could not attend the party, walked around gloomily, as though carrying the

weight of a large wooden crucifix upon my shoulders.

At school, there was much joking and laughter at my predicament, except for one young man who—either because he had respect for my shortcake or else felt a bit sorry for me—unexpectedly presented me with a gift.

It was a valentine, a large red heart filled with chocolates and a note. The note said, "Little girls aged 21 have no cause to be so glum."

This thoughtful gesture helped me through the distressing weeks that followed, and gradually my father relaxed his stern demeanor and rescinded his order, and the household regained its former harmony.

In addition, that young man who had given me the valentine, named Leo Holub, began showing up at our house regularly. Within a year and a half, we were married.

For the next three years on Valentine's Day, Leo gave me a heart filled with chocolates, accompanied by the rhyming words that I had come to eagerly anticipate: "Little girl, 22..." "Little girl, 23..." "Little girl, 24..."

But when the next year's valentine came, it was without the usual verse. Could he find no suitable rhyme for 25? Perhaps his poetic license had been revoked! Nevertheless, the chocolates continued.



As for my valentines to Leo, well, they were pretty sporadic. But occasionally I'd devise a memorable present—like the year I sewed a Japanese-style robe of brown-and-black-striped fabric, and for an added touch made a cut-out badge. It was a Purple Heart medal, which bore the inscription, "For Pretty Good Behavior." He thought it was funny, fortunately.

Another year I made a batch of cupcakes for our sons, and one for Leo that I embellished lavishly using a cake decorating tool. The boys gobbled theirs up quickly, but Leo took his to work where he placed it on his desk. There it stayed until it got as dry and hard as a stone. (He still has it tucked away somewhere in the attic.)

Through all the years, I have had more than my share of birthdays and valentines, but the valentine that is nearest to my heart is the first one, the big red heart. I still have the box, empty except for a small slip of paper now yellow with age.

If my man Leo had managed to keep his verses going, the 1994 rhyme might have gone something like this: "Little old lady, 75, we're still together, and we're still alive!"

Leo celebrated his 90th in November and Florence her 88th birthday in January. Last month was especially busy for the couple because they were preparing for a major exhibition of Leo's photography at a gallery in downtown San Francisco. "Leo Holub: 70 Years of Photography," a retrospective of more than 180 works, will run February through March at the Himmelberger Gallery, 445A Sutter Street (open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.). It's a show that shouldn't be missed. —Ed.

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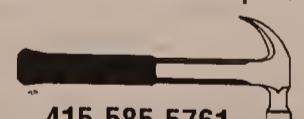
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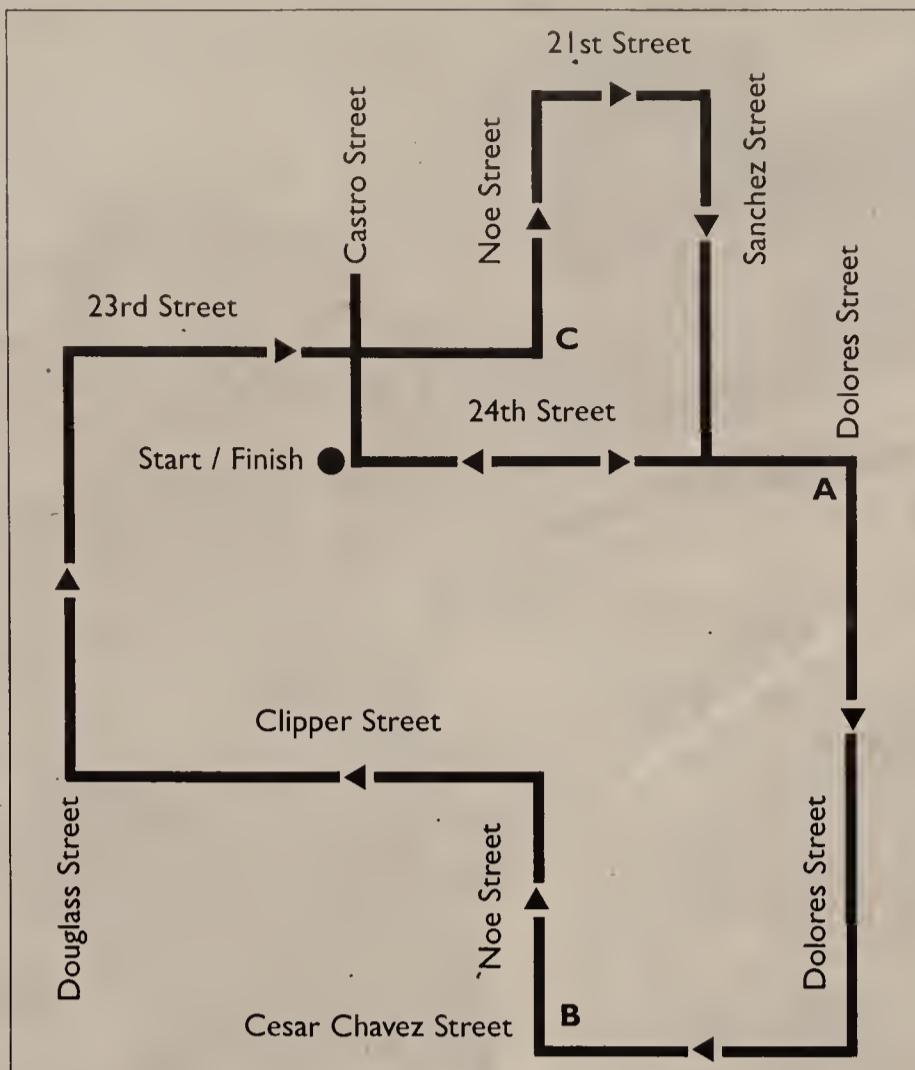
Use Noe Valley As Your Gym

By Elizabeth Boyarsky

Greg Bianchi, personal trainer and outdoor fitness coach of Bianchi Fitness, has customized one of his outdoor fitness workouts exclusively for *Noe Valley Voice* readers. This workout is intended for residents who are interested in utilizing the neighborhood's hills to burn calories and build muscle. It's also a convenient way to get your exercise without driving or leaving the neighborhood. The workout is approximately three miles long, and you can run, jog, or walk it. It should take about 45 minutes if you're running; twice that if you're walking. Bianchi's outdoor fitness classes meet at the bell tower at Dolores Park, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 6 and 7 a.m. For information, go to www.bianchifitness.com.

The Workout

Starting at the corner of 24th Street and Castro, jog easily down to Dolores Street. At the corner of 24th and Dolores (A), perform 30 sit-ups. Once you've finished, "knee-hug" walk on Dolores Street up the hill to Jersey Street, one block. Then take off and jog again. Go four blocks down Dolores Street and make a right onto Cesar Chavez Street and continue jogging up to Noe Street.



Once you arrive at the corner of Noe and Cesar Chavez (B)—you have completed slightly over 1 mile—perform 20 pushups and then 30 crunches. Next, jog down to Clipper Street (James Lick School) and turn left onto Clipper. Run up Clipper Street to Douglass. Changing from a light jog to a comfortable run, remember to focus on posture. Keep your head and neck relaxed, let your shoulders drop, and feel the ground move underneath you. If you are walking this route, change from a comfortable walk to a power walk. You are going to focus on the same things: keep your head and neck relaxed, let your shoulders drop, and feel the ground move beneath you.

Once you turn right onto Douglass, slow down into a comfortable jog. Take Douglass to 23rd Street. Then turn right and pick up your jogging/running pace to Noe Street. At the corner of Noe and 23rd (C), perform 30 jumping jacks followed by 20 pushups and 30 crunches.

Look up north toward Noe Street. Briskly walk or stride up Noe Street to 21st Street. Turn right on 21st and walk slowly for recovery toward Sanchez Street. Once you get to Sanchez, turn right and easily jog/walk down Sanchez Street to 24th Street and turn right. Check out the shops and cafes as you stroll up 24th to Castro, where your workout began. Then have a great rest-of-the-day!

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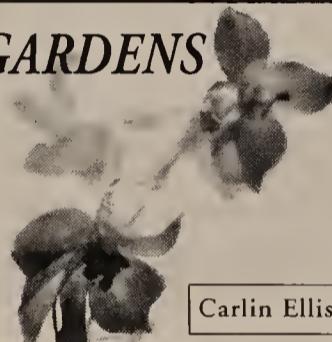
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Photo of Paula, canine customer Boris, and Celia by Pamela Gerard

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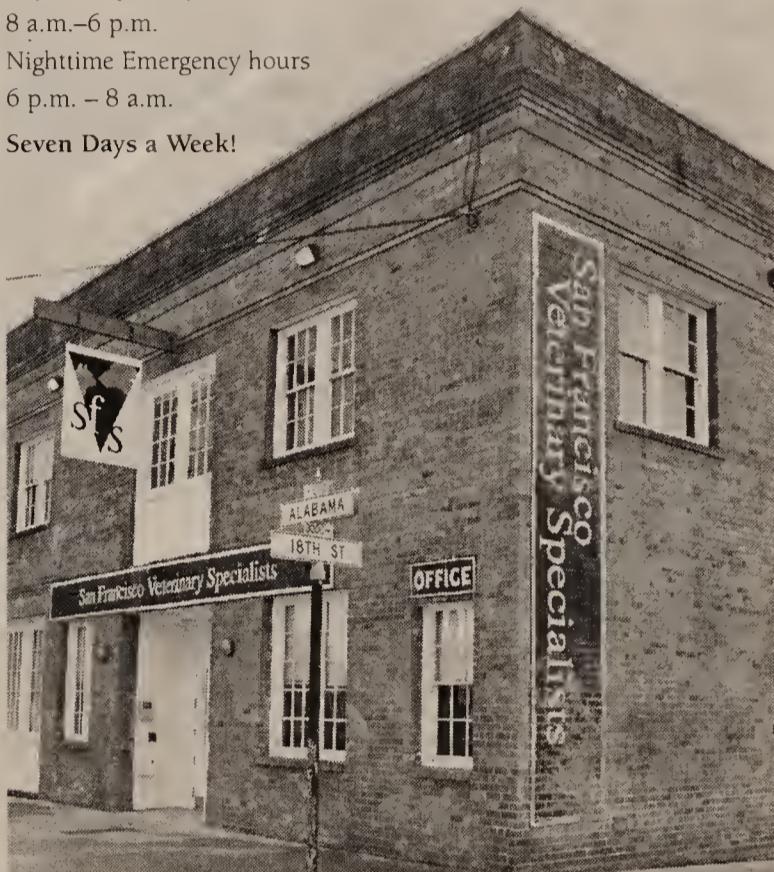
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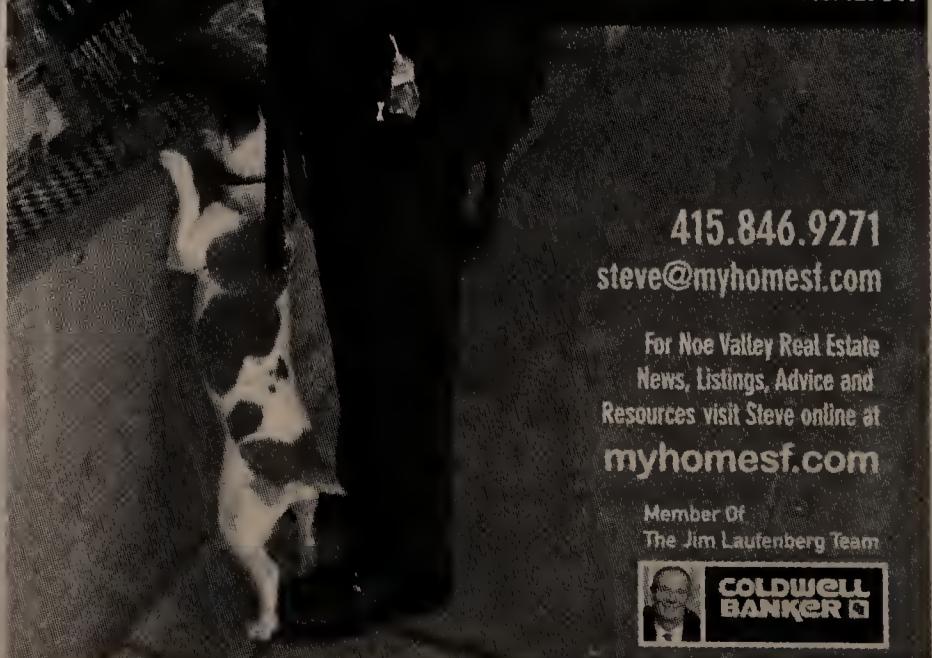
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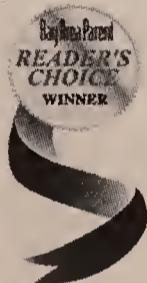
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The Best Garage and Bake Sale will take place Saturday, Feb. 24, at 3774 26th Street (between Fair Oaks and Dolores). What makes it special is not just the bargains and goodies available, but that the entire proceeds will be going to the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation and that it's being organized by 10-year-old Alice Kincade (right), a fourth-grader at St. James School. Alice's grandmother Barbara Minafo (left) has battled the disease for years. She and Joe, her husband of 53 years, live upstairs from Alice and her mom. The families hope to see all their Noe Valley neighbors and friends on the 24th. Also pictured is 2-year-old goddaughter Kaylie.

Photo by Pomelo Gerord

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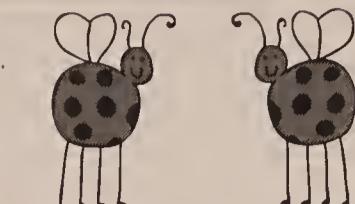
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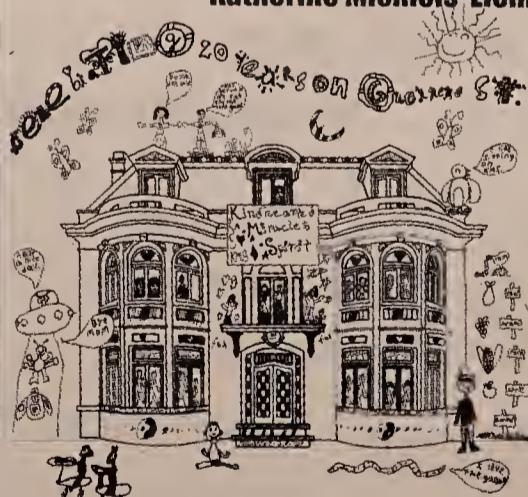
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SCHOOL REPORT

Our volunteer correspondents report that students, teachers, and parents are racing to go this spring at three neighborhood public schools: Alvarado, Fairmount, and James Lick.

ALVARADO

It's Read-a-thon Time!

Ready, set, *read!* Alvarado Elementary School's annual Read-a-thon begins Monday, Feb. 5. For two weeks, our students will be keeping a log of all the time they spend reading. After a child has read for at least one hour, he or she will be entered in the daily prize drawing. The classroom that logs the most minutes wins a class party!

During the first week of the Read-a-thon (Feb. 5 to 9), each student will select a book of his or her own to keep. Fiction, nonfiction, English, and Spanish books at all grade levels will be available to choose from.

The Alvarado Read-a-thon is also a PTA fundraiser. To participate in the fundraiser, children may find sponsors who either pledge a lump sum or make a per-minute pledge. Friends, grandparents, coworkers, and many others get a kick out of helping promote the joys of reading. Contributions benefit PTA programs for all students and are fully tax-deductible. Children do not have to find sponsors to take part in the Read-a-thon! All they have to do is *READ!*

Fanfare for the Not So Silent Auction

Alvarado invites you to join the school's families and staff at our annual Not So Silent Auction. This year's event takes place on Saturday, March 3, from 7 to 11 p.m. at Fort Mason Conference Center in the Marina District. The highlight of the event is the live auction, which begins at 8:15 p.m. and features artworks by Alvarado classrooms. The silent auction is open from 7 to 10 p.m. and includes donations from many generous merchants and families. Complimentary finger foods and beverages will be served throughout the evening. All proceeds from this event go toward providing excellent academic and artistic programs for Alvarado students and maintaining a safe and attractive learning environment.

Spotlight on Salsa and Foxtrot

The Alvarado Arts Program will once again present a series of Family Art Workshops over the coming months. The workshops will be offered one Saturday per month from February through May. First up is a partner dance session led by our resident dance teacher, Genevieve Feeley. Participants will learn to salsa and foxtrot. These workshops for Alvarado families were made possible by a grant from Art4Moore, a grant program of the Tides Foundation.

EXPERIENCE CORPS

School Volunteers Needed!
Experience Corps Bay Area is seeking caring adults aged 55+ to mentor children in neighborhood public schools. Put your time, talent, and experience to use! Experience Corps volunteers work directly with students, tutoring one-on-one or in small groups in grades K-8. Stipends (\$185-\$250/mo.) available for volunteers working over 15 hours/week. Get involved today! Contact Star Bressler at (415) 759-3690 or email sbressler@snbc.org

Wish List: We need computers (12 or more); basketballs for our fifth-grade teams, plus other playground equipment; CD-tape players, four-drawer filing cabinets, and wind-up flashlights (two of each); three area rugs, three mouse pads, one small computer station, and a ream of paper with three-hole punches. Contact Christina James, 415-759-1401, or kisnaj@yahoo.com. Thanks!

—Mara Sieling

FAIRMOUNT

Black History Month: A New View

Fairmount Elementary School parents and faculty have been meeting since the beginning of the school year with Principal Karling Aguilera-Fort to plan an African American History Month that will be like no other. Classes will focus on the traditions that were brought from the African continent to Latin America, where they blended with those that existed on this side of the world.

Highlights will include schoolwide study of cuisine and music, often a blend of African and Latin American cultures. The African contribution to Latin America will be a special area of focus.

"Teachers and a group of parents are moving forward an agenda that will showcase the history of our African ancestors and the traditions they brought to America as a continent, from south to north," says Aguilera-Fort.

The monthlong celebration will culminate in an evening of music, including drumming, African dance, and the Fabulous Falcon Choir.

Taking It to the Board of Ed.

Fairmount parent Hydra Mendoza began her school board career with a kick-off installation at Tenderloin Community School in January, along with two other newly elected commissioners, Kim-Shree Maufas and Jane Kim. Mendoza, who has a son at Fairmount and a daughter at James Lick, took her oath of office from His Honor Gavin Newsom, who sang her praises in opening remarks. More than 300 people attended the event, and all three new commissioners pledged to work together to make the school dis-

SCHOOL CONTACTS

Alvarado Elementary School
Gene Barresi, Principal
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www.alvaradoschool.net

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trict more open, accountable, and family-friendly. Continuing the Year of the Woman in San Francisco politics, five women now occupy seats on the seven-member Board of Education, in addition to Gwen Chan serving as the first Asian American superintendent (interim).

Hither and Yon

If you see a crowd of four-foot-tall creatures running by you in a blue blur on the streets of Noe Valley, it may well be the Fairmount Flash Running Club. Expanding into its second year, the Flash now comprises over 100 runners under the guidance of parent volunteer coach Matthew Patchell. As winter wanes, the Flash speedsters have been warming up after school on campus and are getting ready to take to the hills and valleys of Noe. The other running club, Girls on the Run, is also gearing up for its spring season. Over one-third of Fairmount's students will be participating in the spring after-school cross-country activity.

—Tom Ruiz

JAMES LICK

Celebrating 75 Years in Noe Valley!

Named for "the generous miser," a former piano builder who became the richest man in California, James Lick Middle School has been Noe Valley's only public middle school since 1932. The school has maintained a bustling presence in the neighborhood over the years, drawing students from Noe Valley, neighboring Bernal Heights, and across the city from Bayview/Hunters Point to the Sunset.

Today's families are attracted by the school's small size, its Spanish-immersion program, improved academic status, and growing focus on the arts. This spring, a pair of events will commemorate this landmark anniversary.

Silent Auction at the Ministry

To kick off the school's 75th anniversary celebration, the James Lick PTS will host its annual Silent Auction at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street, on Saturday, March 10, from 6 to 10 p.m. Come join the James Lick community for a lively evening of music and fun, and help raise money to benefit the entire school. Items for auction will include products from Noe Valley merchants, gift certificates for well-known stores and restaurants all over town, professional services, gourmet food baskets, local artists' work, and more. Lick parent and eminent musician Ralph Carney will entertain guests with the acclaimed gypsy

jazz group Gaucho. Beer and wine will be on sale, and plenty of good food will be on hand.

Proceeds from the evening will go toward PTSA-sponsored enrichment programs, including student field trips to Mexico and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, participation in San Francisco's Carnaval '07, ongoing classroom curriculum and arts support, and a new Peace Garden in the art deco style that will grace the entire front of the school building. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Please call 415-826-3565 or visit jameslickpts.org for more details.

Auction Donations Wanted!

Do you have a valuable item or service you'd like to donate to the James Lick 75-year anniversary Silent Auction? We'd love to hear from you. Please contact Nan Foster, 415-822-8680, for more details—and thank you for helping James Lick!

Santana at Peace Garden Dedication

Save Saturday, May 12, for our official 75th Anniversary Celebration at the school. Alumnus Carlos Santana has agreed to make a brief appearance for the dedication of our new Peace Garden in front of the school. Watch this space for additional information about alumni connections, student performances, and other ways to participate. Neighbors are invited to join us to see the inside of our beautiful art deco building and plans for the new garden. Alumni, maybe you'll find your old locker!

Wish List: With our big anniversary in mind, we'd love to find pictures, yearbooks, trophies, report cards, stories from neighbors, parents, or grandparents who attended the school, and any other artifacts of our school's rich history. (Sadly, the school's archives were lost during relocation and remodeling activities many years ago.)

News and Notes

Chat with the Principal: Meet with Principal Carmelo Sgarlato Friday, Feb. 16, at 8:30 a.m.

Annual Mexico Trip Begins Feb. 18! Adios, Amigos!

March Previews: Find youth camps and youth employment opportunities at the San Francisco Summer Resource Fair at Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, Saturday, March 3, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. And don't forget our Silent Auction at the Noe Valley Ministry on March 10!

On the Web: www.jameslickpts.org. —Sue Cattoche

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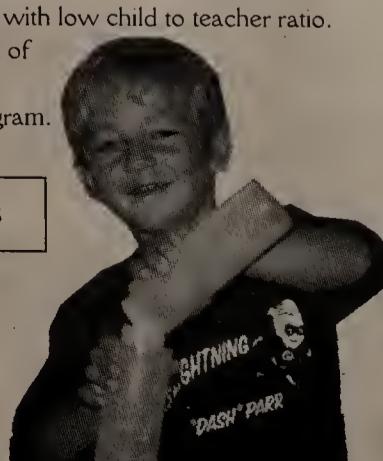
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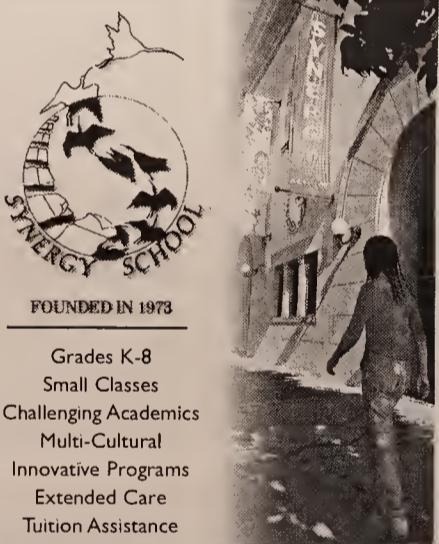
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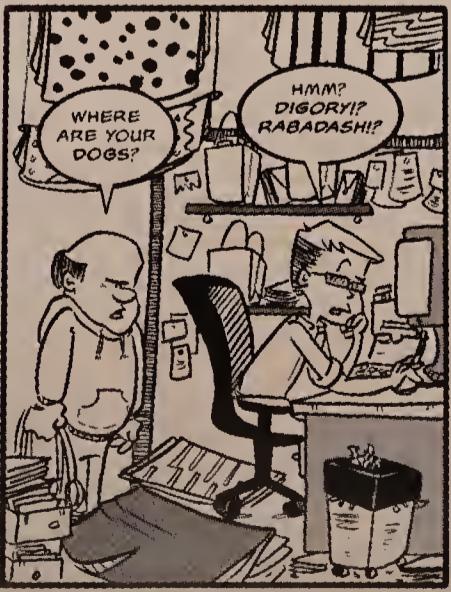
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MORE BOOKS TO READ

This month's library selections, provided by San Francisco librarians Pam Ow and Carol Small (and Voicers Karol Barske and Sally Smith), include Michael Crichton's latest sci-fi novel and an award-winning book for young teens about a pre-Civil War slave auction. To find out if they're available, or to look for other books or DVDs, call or stop by a local branch library or visit the San Francisco Public Library online at www.sfpb.org. Be aware that the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey Street remains closed for renovation until late 2007 or early 2008. However, the Mission, Glen Park, Bernal, and Eureka Valley libraries are all within short hikes of Noe Valley. For information, call 557-4400.

Children's Fiction

■ A young bear cub shares the joys of a day with his dad in Sebastian Braun's *I Love My Daddy*. A variety of animal moms care for their babies in Braun's *I Love My Mommy*. Ages 1 to 5.

■ Nina Crews' lively photographs—some with special digital effects—feature urban, multi-ethnic children enacting 41 nursery rhymes in *The Neighborhood Mother Goose*. Ages 3 to 5.

■ A boy and his sister go on a bilingual Spanish/English search through the house to gather different-colored items needed for their afternoon *Siesta*, as told by Ginger Foglesong Guy. Réne King Moreno's illustrations depict many household objects for readers to identify. Ages 3 to 6.

■ The life cycle of *A Grand Old Tree* that nurtures many creatures is respectfully honored in an appealingly illustrated story by Mary Newell DePalma. Ages 4 to 8.

—Pam Ow, Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Library

■ Each character, whether historical or fictional, contributes his views to the moving story about a slave auction in 1859, in *Day of Tears: A Novel in Dialogue*, by Julius Lester (2006 Coretta Scott King Author Award). Ages 10 and older.

■ In Marlene Carvell's *Sweetgrass Basket*, Mattie and her sister, Sarah, are at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School at the turn of the 20th century, trying to "be good," as requested by their father, and to survive the strict, even cruel treatment by some of the adults at the school. Ages 10 and older.

—Carol Small, Nae Valley-Sally Brunn Library

Adult Fiction

■ In *The Children's Hospital*, a Noah's ark-inspired tale by physician Chris Adrian, a young woman medical student tries to save the last inhabitants of an earth that has been submerged beneath seven miles of water.

■ *Next*, the newest thriller by author Michael Crichton, focuses on genetic engineering, hybrid creatures, and the perils of mixing human and chimpanzee DNA.

■ A man dying of Lou Gehrig's disease dictates his family story, starting in 1871 with the journey of his half-Chippewa great-grandfather from Minnesota to Michigan, in *Returning to Earth*, by Jim Harrison, author of *Legends of the Fall*.

■ In *Trap Door*, the 10th "home repair" mystery by Sarah Graves, Jacobia "Jake" Tiptree continues tinkering on her haunted house in Eastport, Maine, while searching for a missing man and avoiding a killer.

■ Author Thomas Harris delves into the early-life traumas that formed the character of villainous cannibal Hannibal Lecter, in *Hannibal Rising*, the prequel to *The Silence of the Lambs* and *Red Dragon*.

Adult Nonfiction

■ In *From Counterculture to Cyberculture: Stewart Brand, The Whole Earth Network, and the Rise of Digital Utopianism*, Fred Turner draws a direct line from the 1960s to current technology, examining the complex environmental impact of computerization.

■ Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, who accompanied her anthropologist parents to Africa in the 1950s, recalls her experiences with the Ju/wasi Bushmen, in *The Old Way: A Story of the First People*.

■ In *Saddam's Secrets: How an Iraqi General Defied and Survived Saddam Hussein*, former general Georges Sada (with co-author Jim Nelson Black) offers proof of Hussein's tyranny and acquisition of weapons of mass destruction.

—Karol Barske, Noe Valley Voice staff

LIBRARY EVENTS

Rhythm, Rap & Rhyme

■ In honor of *Black History Month*, Tureeda Mikell presents a program of "Rhythm, Rap, and Rhyme," for children under 6, at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 13, at the Noe Valley Library's temporary home: Bethany United Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez Street.

Lapsits and Story Time

■ Bethany Church will also host the Tuesday infant/toddler *lapsits*, at 10:15 a.m., and *preschool story time*, a read-aloud program for kids 3 to 5, at 11 a.m., on Feb. 6, 20, and 27.

■ The Noe Valley *Bookmobile* will be parked at 665 Elizabeth Street near Diamond Street on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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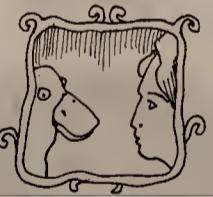


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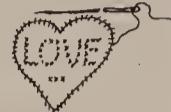
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10 for 10 discount: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Voice* will be the March 2007 issue, distributed in Noe Valley on or before March 2. **The deadline for Class Ads is Feb. 15, 2007.**

Note: The Class Ads are printed in the newspaper and then displayed for one month on our web site: www.noealleyvoice.com.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Thank you for your support.

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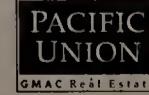
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and now for the
RUMORS
behind the news

Cops and Robbers

By Mozook

ROBIN HOOD: Downtown Noe Valley's serenity was broken at about 2:30 in the afternoon on Wednesday, Jan. 24, when a hooded man walked into our local Bank of America, pulled out a gun, and asked a teller to hand over the cash. She complied. The robber calmly went out the door, and the teller looked up and mouthed the words to the co-worker across from her: "I've been robbed!"

According to witnesses, the robber then walked over to a bicycle he had parked by the ATM. He mounted his bike and headed down 24th Street to Sanchez, where he turned right and rode down the hill to Jersey Street. He attempted to make a left turn there, but lost control of his bicycle and crashed into a tree.

However, he got up and started running toward Church Street, just as the police were arriving at his fallen bike. It seemed like everyone from Mission Station showed up at the scene at once—kinda like a *Nosh Bridges* episode, if you know what I mean.

Then the SFPD fanned out and began their hot pursuit. Apparently, the robber stopped at a corner grocery store on Church, where he bought some beer (with his own money!) and enjoyed his beverage until the J-Church arrived. After he hopped on the streetcar, he was apprehended by the cops, who chauffeured him down to the Hall of Justice, where he was booked.

According to BofA Branch Manager Becky Feijoo, everyone is safe and sound, all the stolen money was recovered by the police on the streetcar, and the robber was put behind bars.

Word of the caper rapidly spread through the Valley and around the Internet.



Twenty-fourth Street's new Special Police Patrol officers Jane Warner (center) and Brian Wong stop to chat with Dong Oh, owner of the Mitre Box framing shop. *Photo by Pamela Gerard*

"The next morning," says Feijoo, "Noe Valley Bakery sent over some pies and hot chocolate. People were checking in on us, and even Supervisor Bevan Dufty called to see if everything was okay."

• • •

SAFETY FIRST: Meanwhile, law enforcement-minded local merchants have banded together to retain the services of the San Francisco Patrol Special Police. And two officers from the force, Jane Warner and Brian Wong, have been walking the 24th Street beat (from Church to Castro) since Thanksgiving.

As some of you might know, the SFPSP is a separately chartered law enforcement group (in operation since 1847) that works under the supervision of the SFPD. Officers are appointed and governed by the San Francisco Police Commission, but the group is not funded by tax dollars. This non-profit group of 52 officers receives its financial support from the neighborhoods it serves. (Some of the other areas with SFPSP patrols are Polk Street, Mission Street, Lower 24th, and the Castro and Market Community Business District.)

The group was hired by the Noe Valley Association-Community Benefit District (NVA-

CBD) to do foot patrols on 24th Street during the shopping season. "We were met with an overwhelming response," says Officer Warner, who also happens to be SFPSP's current president. "I feel that we can make a difference in the safety and security of the neighborhood."

In mid-December, letters from the SFPSP went out to 93 Downtown Noe Valley businesses, informing them that due to the support the patrollers were getting from merchants, the program would be continued.

Each merchant was asked for a monthly contribution of \$50, which "is purely elective, and does not replace your already existing city services, but instead augments those services already in place," Warner explains.

She says that in order to sustain the program, 40 local merchants must sign up to pay for the service. Noe Valley has at least that many participating, she says. "However, we keep our membership lists confidential."

In an aside, Warner says, "I came over from the Castro patrol to Noe Valley, and now I will continue to cover this beat. I was reading the *B.A.R.* [Boy Area Reporter] before, and now I read the *Voice!*" Some of you might recognize Warner as the Police Beat columnist in

the *B.A.R.* FYI, our neighborhood SFPSP, which is based at Mission Police Station under the command of Captain Goldberg, is already assisting in the current SFPD investigation of a recent rash of backdoor break-ins at some Downtown Noe Valley stores.

Of interest to all you car parkers, the Department of Parking and Traffic has given a tentative nod to a deal made between the merchants and residents about the metering of the diagonal parking slots created on the east side of Castro from Jersey to 25th Street. Originally, the merchants along that block wanted 19 to be metered, and the residents wanted a number closer to zero.

In a compromise reached with the help of Supervisor Dufty, nine meters will be installed in the first nine slots south of Jersey Street. All will be two-hour meters, to allow drivers enough time to do their DNV business.

• • •

NOE VALLEY BEAUTIFUL: The 24th Street beat will be the subject of the Noe Valley Association's third of three community meetings on the future look of our quaint urban village. Mark your calendars for 7 p.m. on March 6, at St. Philip's Community Hall.

The NVA, *Voice* readers will recall, contracted with a design firm, Urban Ecology, and they've conducted two community meetings to explore how our main street can be "a complete street for all," maybe even jaywalkers.

"The final meeting with the community will be to determine traffic calming and pedestrian safety measures, consider street furnishings such as planters, benches, and news racks, and sustainable streetscapes such as sidewalk landscaping, and permeable sidewalks," promises NVA chief Debra Niemann.

By the way, those very popular permeable recycling racks on the top of street garbage cans that were creatively turned into planters by the NVA after they became obsolete (when the city started sorting the recyclables from all the trash at the processing plant) are now being inexplicably removed by the Department of Public Works.

According to Niemann, the DPW said the recycling bins would be replaced by hanging

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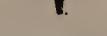
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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

baskets, but "I am worried that the city won't have the money anytime soon, and we will lose our flowers."

If you share Niemann's concerns, you might want to let Mohammed Nuru, deputy director of operations for DPW, know.



VEGETABLE ART: All the local folks responsible for our popular Saturday morning Farmers' Market, started at 24th and Sanchez in January 2004, have commissioned an award-winning muralist, Mona Caron, to paint a large "farmers' market themed" mural on both sides of the Noe Valley Ministry's parking lot on 24th between Haystack Pizza and Pete's Cleaners.

According to Joel Pomerantz, who is working on obtaining a \$70,000 Community Challenge Grant from the city, both Haystack and Pete's have given consent to the project—in other words, a major hurdle has been passed. Pomerantz is looking forward to the mid-February announcements of grants. Once the funds are okayed, the two-sided mural should take about a year to complete.

To see artist Caron's style, go to the corner of 22nd and Church, where you can view a large floral mural on the corner walls. Or check out the southwest corner of Church below 15th Street, where there's a fantastic historical one called "The Market Street Railway." Indoors, visit www.monacaron.com for a screen full of her art. (I especially liked the Critical Mass 10-year anniversary poster in September '02.)



COMMEMORATION DAY: It looks as if the "Blue Church" on the southwest corner of Church and 28th streets will soon be demolished. As reported in our October issue, the plan is to erect a four-story structure, with six residential condominiums and one commer-

cial unit. A representative from J. Branch Developments came to the Jan. 25 meeting of the Upper Noe Neighbors and showed the group the design of a building that will rise 40 feet. They are projecting a start date of April 2007, and a completion date approximately a year later. "It seems that everyone in the neighborhood is happy about the design of this development," reports UNN president Vicki Rosen, "and we even had next-door neighbors come supporting the project, which is rare."

The blue building slated for demolition was built in 1916, and became one of the first motion picture theaters in Noe Valley, the Del Mar. The developers have promised to place a historical plaque on the building in recognition of its history.



Helen Weinschenk celebrated her 95th birthday surrounded by friends and family.

A bit older than the Del Mar Theater is local icon Helen Weinschenk, who was feted on her 95th birthday by about 65 of her closest friends and relations on Jan. 13. Festivities began with a 5 p.m. mass at St. Philip the Apostle Church and then a 7 p.m. dinner at one of her favorite restaurants, the Chicken Coop, out in the Sunset. Her younger sisters Josephine, age 85, and Zoe, age 82, came from Chicago for the event.

Noe oldsters will remember Weinschenk when she ran the Wooden Heel shoe repair shop, starting in 1949. She sold it to Patti and Barry Wood almost 20 years ago but continued to work part-time at her trade at the Wooden Heel until she was in her mid-80s.

According to one of the party organizers, Lynn Peterson, there were lovely spiritual bouquets at the mass and many, many gift cards

for Helen at the dinner party.



PLAYING THE MARKET: Those of you looking for organic fruits and vegetables will be happy with the folks who took over the space next to Shufat Market on 24th near Church (formerly Jim and Son's Produce) and renamed it Noe Valley Natural Foods. George Montiel, Francisco Paez, and his wife Armida Pacz have brought in a full variety of organic fruits and vegetables as well as organic whole grains and dairy products.

"We still have conventionally-grown produce, but we have really expanded our organic product far beyond what used to be here," says Armida, "and in less than two months we will have packaged organic meats." They are currently getting permits for a much-needed new freezer.

Noe Valley Natural Foods has already gotten favorable reviews on Yelp.com. "We started kind of slow in December, but gradually people are starting to know we are here and coming in to shop," smiles Armida.

There's one less video market in Noe Valley, now that First Choice at Church and 24th streets has closed. The rumor is the corner site will soon be occupied by a martial arts studio.

In Noe Valley real estate news, the big items are the recent opening of McGuire Real Estate on the corner of Church and Clipper, the impending opening of Hill and Company on the corner of 24th and Sanchez, and the change in ownership of BJ Droubi & Company, doing business for the past 35 years in a wonderful Victorian on 24th just above Castro.

BJ and Terry Lee have sold the business to daughter Lamisse Droubi and her husband Steve Holman, and longtime sales manager Paul Christopher. It will henceforth be called Droubi Real Estate. Bye bye, BJ, and thanks for the memories and all the monetary support you've given the neighborhood over the years.



REMEMBRANCE OF BREAKFAST PAST: A tribute is due to Kris Weingard, the head cook at Chloe's, the popular eatery at the corner of Church and 26th streets. For the past 17 years, Kris has made me my favorite breakfast of

scrambled eggs with avocado and Jarlsberg cheese.

Kris passed away on Dec. 29, at the young age of 48, after a very brief battle with ovarian cancer. Many friends came to a memorial at the restaurant on Jan. 26 to share their fond memories of Kris.

What I will always admire is how Kris somehow got all those orders to the diners so quickly. She was a whiz in Chloe's kitchen, which is the smallest restaurant kitchen in Noe Valley and perhaps the smallest kitchen in Noe Valley, period. We certainly will miss her.



VOTING NOE VALLEY: Results of the Nov. 7, 2006, general election have been certified by the S.F. Department of Elections, and we now know that out of the 15,117 of us in the neighborhood who registered to vote, 10,421 actually did vote. That's a 68.9 percent turnout.

For some mysterious reason, the Department of Elections has stopped reporting the results by neighborhood—now the votes are sorted by supervisorial district. Maybe the city-crat who make that bonehead decision would consider reversing it so that the NVBI would not have to go from precinct to precinct to count our neighborhood's vote, dadgummit!

In the supervisor's race, for our District 8, which includes Noe Valley, the Castro, etc., Bevan Dufty was easily re-elected. Dufty garnered almost 67 percent of the vote, Alix Rosenthal 29 percent, and Starchild picked up the remainder.

In the governor's race, Democrat Phil Angelides got 21,678 votes, Republican Arnold Schwarzenegger got 6,301 votes, and the Green Party's Peter Camejo got 2,007. The Nancy Pelosi landslide in the district gave her 21,771 votes to Republican Mike Denunzio's 1,404 and Green Party Krissy Keefer's 2,233.

In the U.S. Senate race, Dianne Feinstein gathered 24,336 votes to 3,242 votes for the Greens' Todd Chretien. Repub Richard Mountjoy came in third with a measly 1,294 votes.

By the way, District 8 voted to impeach George Bush (Measure J) by a vote of 10,147 to 8,932.

On that vote, I will bid you adieu until next time.

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 E-mail: capa@home4us.org
 Meetings: Second Thursday of the month, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Church Street Business (CSB)
 Contacts: Lynn Ingham, 643-5966, or Paula Benton, 248-0235
 E-mail: bentonp@sprynet.com
 Meetings: Third Monday, every other month. Location varies. Sept. 18 meeting at Fattoush, 1361 Church St., 6:30 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association
 Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club
 Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228
 Mailing Address: 3732 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Board meetings bimonthly; membership semi-annually. Call for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)
 Contacts: Pat Lockhart, 282-9360; Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
 Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club
 Contact: Paul Kantis, 647-3753
 Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Irregular, call to confirm.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association
 Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Third Thursday of the month (except December), Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors
 Contact: Joyce Kurtz, 401-6362

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Mailing Address: 261 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Call for information. The annual Fair Oaks Street Fair is always held the day before Mother's Day.

Friends of Dolores Park Playground
 Contact: Eli Merritt, 415-285-3774
 E-mail: enerr@earthlink.net
 Mailing Address: 3786 20th St., San Francisco, CA 94110
 Meetings: E-mail for information on advocacy meetings and social events for kids

Friends of Glen Canyon Park
 Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
 Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground
 Contact: Laura Norman
 E-mail: lauranor@yahoo.com
 Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley, P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
 Meetings: E-mail for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)
 Contact: Richard May
 E-mail: rambooks@pacbell.net
 Web site: www.friendsofnoevaluey.com
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
 Meetings: First or second Thursday of the month (call or e-mail to confirm), at St. Philip's Parish Hall, 725 Diamond St.

Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center
 Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845
 Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center
 Contact: Christina Goebel, 826-7772
 E-mail: christina_goebel@yahoo.com
 Meetings: Call or e-mail for dates and times.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association
 Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114, San Francisco, CA 94119
 Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"
 Contact: noestrolls@aol.com
 Weekly Strolls: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m., departing Holley Bagel, 3872 24th St., between Sanchez and Vicksburg. Stroll tours Noe Valley, the Castro, and the Mission. Membership free. To join, and for more details, visit www.noestrolls.com.

Noe Valley Association—Community Benefit District
 Contact: Debra Niemann, nemo@rcn.com
 Dispatch: To report spills, debris, or garbage on 24th Street, call 559-8492.

Noe Valley Democratic Club
 Contact: Andy Fleischman, 641-5838
 Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month; Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m.

Noe Valley Farmers' Market
 Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon, on 24th between Sanchez and Vicksburg Street
 Contact: Paula Benton, 248-1332
 Mailing Address: 4104 24th St., #401, San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Second Thursday of the month, Noe Valley Ministry (co-sponsor), 1021 Sanchez St., 8 p.m.

Noe Valley Library Campaign
 Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695, kkdrew@yahoo.com; Marian Chatfield-Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103
 Mailing Address: Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94102
 Meetings: Call for information.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)
 Contacts: Diane Barrett, 647-2116, or Teresa Gay, 336-6304
 E-mail: info@noevalleymerchants.com
 register at www.noevalleymerchants.com.
 Meetings: Last Wednesday of the month. E-mail for location and time.

Noe Valley Parent Network
 An e-mail resource network for parents
 Contact: Mina Kenvin
 E-mail: minaken@gmail.com

Noe Valley Preparedness Committee
 Contact: Mindy Kershner, 377-3890
 E-mail: mindytower@aol.com
 Meetings: Call for details.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants
 Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
 Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets
 Contact: Don Oshiro, 285-8188
 E-mail: contact@sanjoseguerrero.com
 Web site: www.sanjoseguerrero.com
 Meetings: See web site.

See Jane Run Running/Walking Club
 Contact: Lori Shannon, 401-8338
 Mailing Address: 3870 24th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Sundays, 10 a.m. (Runners meet at See Jane Run to pick up the 5K run/walk route. Info? www.SeeJaneRunSports.com.)

Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association (SWMNA)
 Boundaries: 24th Street to Cesar Chavez and Fair Oaks to Mission
 Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary
 E-mail: lori@tail-wagging.com
 Web site: www.tail-wagging.com
 Meetings: E-mail for information.

Upper Noe Neighbors
 Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
 Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Last Thursday of the month (call to confirm), 30th Street Senior Center, 225 30th St., 7:30 p.m.



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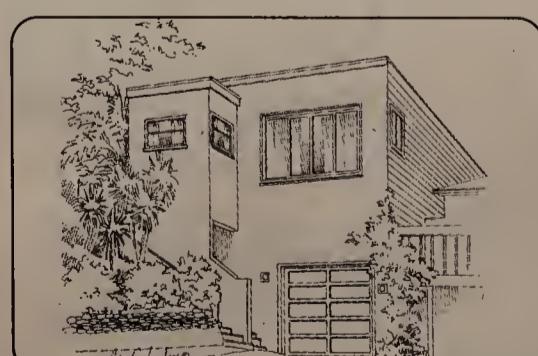
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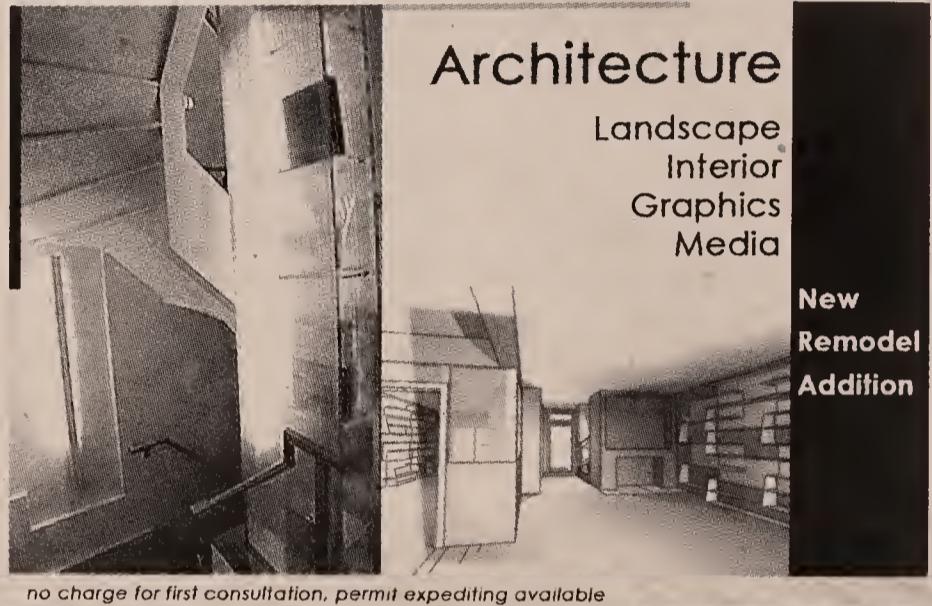
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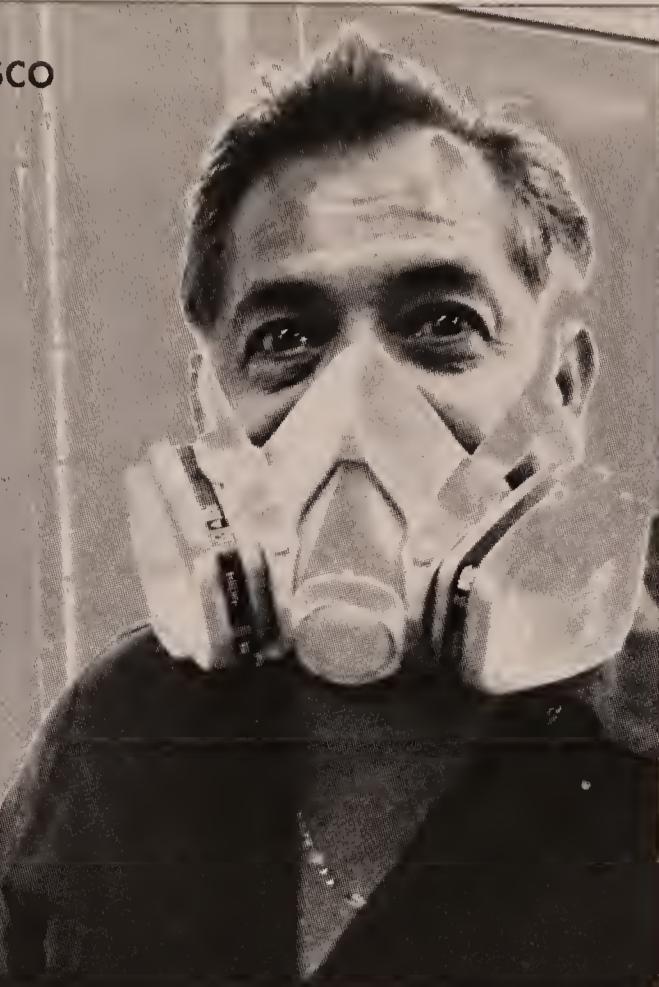


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Her Signature Dish

By Tessa White

Tara's boyfriend of four years, Joe, had lost interest in her signature dish. It was gradual, it came with time. He would miss dinner, and later she'd find Taco Bell wrappers on the floor of his car. Whenever Tara mentioned the dish, Joe feigned a stomach cramp and sent for chicken soup.

Tara was no careless chef. She had been cooking for 15 years, long before Joe came along, and she'd satisfied the taste buds of many men. After a decade and a half of practice and experimentation, Tara was in her prime. She had fine-tuned her pinches and dashes. Perfected each titillating flavor. She could stroke any man's tongue to a zesty climax.

The dish itself was nothing exotic. In fact, it was really quite basic. Almost a girl-next-door meal. Still, Tara didn't like to share the secrets of her signature dish. It was never cooked the same way twice. The one consistency? The meat was fish. Not just any fish, but the freshest, most perfect pick of what swims with fins: salmon. The salmon must be plucked from a wild river and have absolutely no color added. The shade of pink must be the hue of blushing flesh. The color alone should trigger the tiny glands of the mouth to water.

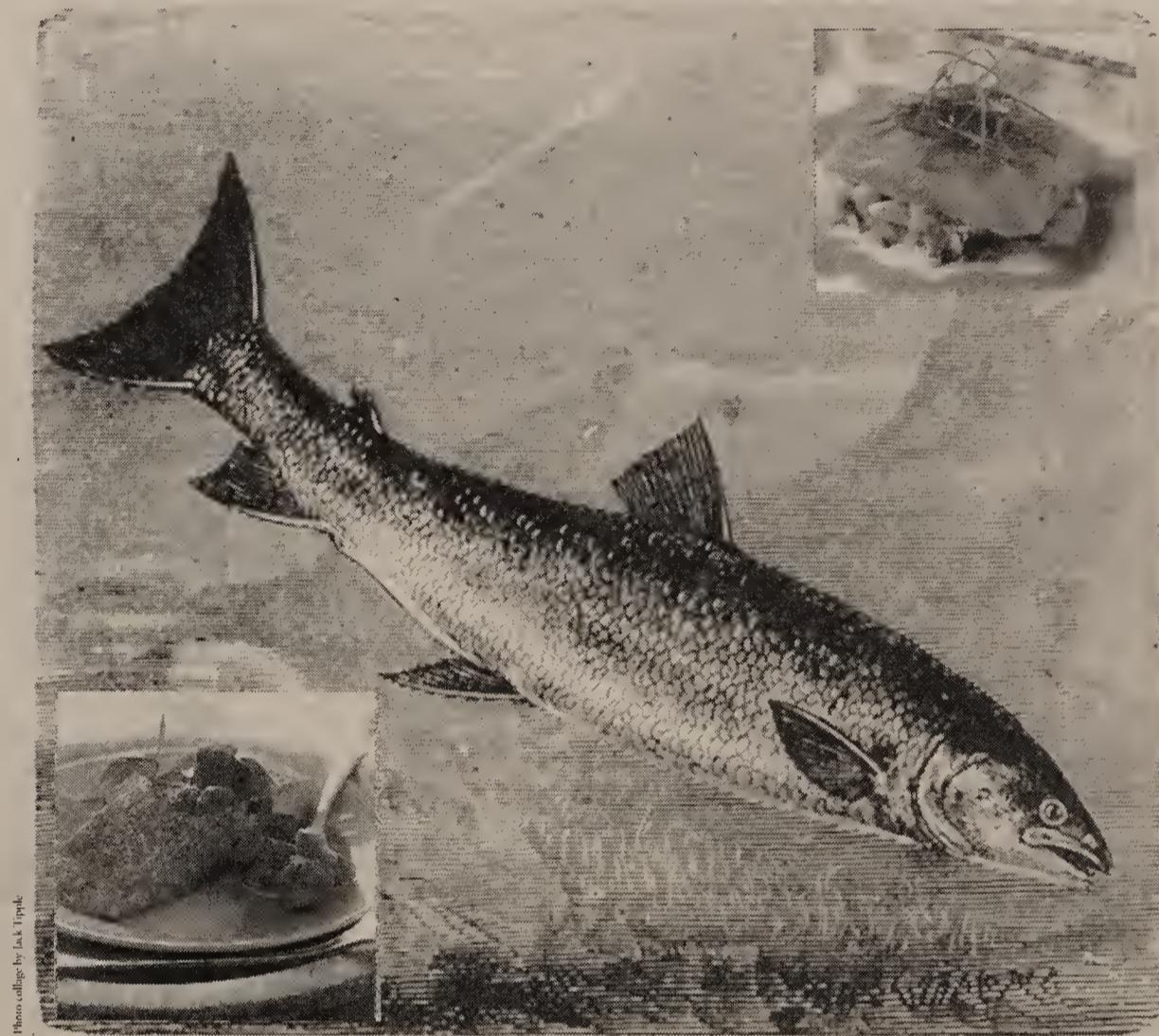
From there, Tara's dish blossomed at the slightest touch of her fingers. Her culinary twists and turns were endless and promised rich sauces and garnishes, from crème fraîche to tart Meyer lemons. She lovingly gave her creation a slow bake in the oven or a gentle sauté atop the stove, the fire beneath it, or above it, warming it to the exact temperature that turned the pink flesh a pure white.

Ironically for Tara, Joe was raised on a farm in Iowa, and quite predictably, he loved beef. Tara spent her childhood in Seattle, where fish was plucked out of the Pacific and served all the time—cooked or raw.

Tara and Joe converged in San Francisco, where there was an abundance of chefs churning out luscious meals. But on their first date, instead of dining out, Tara invited Joe over and served him her signature dish. After the final swallow, Tara watched as a single tear rolled down Joe's cheek. He moved in with her that weekend.

In those early days, Joe couldn't get enough of her special meal. He constantly craved it. He slid it into their daily conversations, begged for it in the middle of the afternoon, and even asked for it as he got out of bed in the early morning. Often, he surprised Tara with a pound of fresh salmon from the local fishmonger.

He became a crazed food addict, and Tara was more than happy to satiate his hunger. There was nothing more exciting than seeing him delight in her dish: his cheeks flushed, his eyes closed, his forehead damp with sweat. They were happy and,



quite honestly, a little exhausted from all the eating.

But then, after the first year, Joe asked for the dish less and less. After two years, the spontaneity all but fizzled out completely. They ordered in Thai and pizza, and then couldn't remember the last time they'd gone to the grocery store. Tara and Joe's weekly special dinners turned into once a month, and then every other month, and then they lost track of the last time they'd eaten together.

By the third year, Tara began to feel a little depressed. She felt frumpy, and undesirable. Her best friend told her not to worry, that she too only occasionally prepared meals for her fiancé. That was just the way it went, she said. Tara sat in her dark kitchen filled with cold pots and pans. The pent-up frustration gnawed away at her. She refused to believe it. She just couldn't imagine living the rest of her life without that rush, without the thrill of this meal.

Tara resolved to revive her boyfriend's old enthusiasm. She decided to bring Joe back to his one-track mind, to revitalize her dish, to make it new again. Tara recorded cooking shows and practiced new techniques while Joe was at work. She bought new culinary tools. She sharpened her knives. Tara did everything she could to spice up the dish.

Then, on a Wednesday night, she made the meal. She prepared it secretly, and presented it at the table as a surprise. Joe eased the fork into the

soft salmon, lifted it to his lips, and...there it was. The old spark. Joe's eyes filled with water, and his damp lips quivered. He devoured the meal with a hunger that made Tara's cheeks redden. That evening, the lovers discovered that once they'd made time for the meal and sat down together and tasted the food, they'd enjoyed it with the same relish they'd had in the beginning. The hard part had been the initiation, taking the first step. They agreed they would both make an effort now, and their joint goal would be to share Tara's signature dish at least once a week.

But there was another valuable lesson Tara had learned through all this. She learned to enjoy cooking for herself. Tara realized she could attain almost as much satisfaction by eating the dish alone. When Joe worked late or was out having beers with the guys, she now popped in a CD and lit a candle. She turned on the burner and warmed the pan. She marinated the salmon. Palmed the fish. Rubbed it with herbs. Sprinkled it with oil. Tara could hardly wait to take her first bite.

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